

International Consortium
for Harmonization of Clinical Laboratory Results



Terms of Reference for working groups working with: Different Measurands or Measurand Groups

Working groups under the joint task force to monitor harmonization of measurands in laboratory medicine through data aggregation (HALMA).

The purpose of this document is to clarify the terms of reference for the working groups (WG) working with Different Measurands or Measurand Groups.

The steering committee will choose which measurands should be prioritized. The criteria for choosing measurands should be lack of harmonization and material expected to be commutable. Depending on the chosen measurands different working groups will be formed. These working groups will use the EQALM central database for their activities. They can also stimulate EQA providers to provide data for this database.

Background

The European Organization for External Quality Assurance Providers in Laboratory Medicine (EQALM) and the International Consortium for Harmonization of Clinical Laboratory Results (ICHCLR) have a joint task force to monitor harmonization of measurands in laboratory medicine through data aggregation (the HALMA task force).

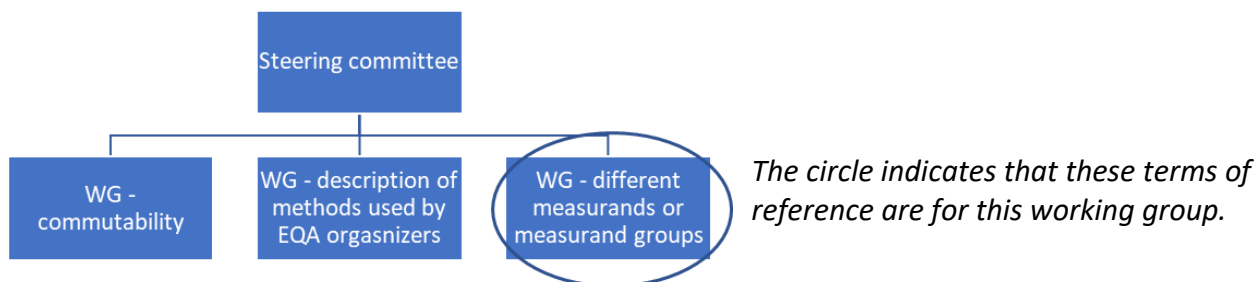
Purpose of HALMA

The primary purpose is to assess harmonization of the IVD industry through aggregated EQA data for different measurands on an international basis. Harmonization will be assessed by providing information on differences between peer group target values of measurement procedures and a true value, or between peer group target values when no true value is available.

Organizational structure of HALMA

The HALMA task force is led by a steering committee and has specific working groups for dedicated tasks including the WG's working with measurands or measurand groups.

The working groups are established with a chair who is responsible to organize the work and a group of dedicated experts (people with expertise and experience in the topic). The chair is appointed by the steering committee.



Tasks and purpose of the working groups for different measurands or measurand groups

Members

Members of the working groups are appointed by the chairs of the working groups.

Purpose

The main purpose of these WG's is giving advice concerning aggregating EQA data to assess harmonisation of specific measurands.

Tasks for the WG:

1. Give advice regarding adequate measuring system description for a measurand in question to the WG on description of methods.
2. Provide advice for developing translation algorithms to aggregate EQA results from presumably the same or similar measuring systems as described by EQA providers into uniform classifications of measurement procedures.
3. Work together with the WG on commutability to clarify commutability requirements as applicable to different categories of measurands.
4. Define criteria for assessing harmonization for each measurand, based on clinical guidelines, medical decisions or other sources of information.

There will be a close collaboration with the EQA central database project from EQALM to define metadata needed to classify EQA data from different measurement procedures.

Publications

Publications from the WG's must be reviewed and approved by the steering committee before submission. The WG should deal with practical implementation.

Useful knowledge

Feasibility project

Feasibility for aggregation of commutable external quality assessment results to evaluate metrological traceability and agreement among results. Clin Chem Lab Med 2021; 59: 117-25.