



Terms of Reference

Working group: Performance Specifications

The purpose of this document is to clarify the terms of reference for the EQALM working group (WG) for performance specifications (PS).

Tasks and purpose

- To investigate which performance specifications are currently used by different EQA organisations;
- The rationale behind different performance specifications in use;
- To set-up cooperation with EFLM Science Committee Task Groups “Performance Specifications Based on Outcome Studies” (TG-PSOS) and “Biological Variation Database” (TG-BVD) and the EFLM committee Quality and Regulations and its WGs
 - to come to a division of roles where the science bodies specify how PSs should be specified and quality bodies specify how to check whether PS are met
 - To distinguish between Analytical Performance Goals (APG), which are ideally met (if not possible now, then in the future) and Analytical performance specifications (which can and must be met today)
- To formulate guidance on:
 - the role of APSs in EQA
 - the role of APGs in EQA
 - The role of EQA organisations to check whether PS are met
 - The role of EQA organisations to identify for which measurands the APS cannot meet the APG yet.
- To propose PS for EQA organisations in cooperation with TG-PSOS and TG-BVD.

WG Steering Committee

Stéphanie ALBAREDE (CTCB, France)
Jean-Marc GIANNOLI (Probioqual, France)
Marcel MIEDOUGE (CTCB, France)
Marc THELEN (SKML, the Netherlands), secretary
Dalius VITKUS (Labquality, Finland), chair

Members

22 members from different EQA organizations

Current ongoing projects

How equal is equal enough to allow combination of data within one health record? The role of EQA method grouping to identify exchangeability groups (Project leader Marc Thelen)

Publication list

Dalius Vitkus. How to use APS for EQA/PT schemes. Invited presentation at the CELME 2023 5th Symposium Cutting Edge of Laboratory Medicine in Europe. Analytical Performance Specifications: Moving From Models to Practical Recommendations. Prague, October 12–13, 2023.

Marc Thelen, Marith van Schrojenstein Lantman, When bias becomes part of imprecision: how to use analytical performance specifications to determine acceptability of lot-lot variation and other sources of possibly unacceptable bias. Prague, October 12-13, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1515/cclm-2023-1303>

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