

Mechanisation steps in Proficiency Testing implementation

Module 010

INTRODUCTI ON

- If the country has a National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) or NTRL.
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- Provides both a research and diagnostic laboratory service for the public sector in the country
- Part of the function of the NHLS/NTRL Quality Assurance Division shall be to provide Proficiency Testing schemes (PTS) for all TB laboratory tests.
- These schemes, shall be under continuous review and are designed to be technically relevant, currently covers LJDST, MGITDST, LPA, Microscopy, Culture, and Xpert
- NHLS/ NTRL shall provide these PT schemes to all TB testing laboratories in the country. The QA Division also co-ordinates and advises on the use of international Quality Assessment Programmes for specialist assays, and shall have the responsibility of monitoring the quality of service provided by

accreditation by ISO/IEC 17043:2010 requirements:-

- The PT Schemes run by the NHLS will have to be designed with a specific purpose in mind, namely, to measure laboratory performance against established (and best practice) criteria.
- In order to achieve the highest levels of objectivity, the management of these PT Schemes shall be carried out by the Quality Assurance Division, NTRL which is entirely independent of the core service functions of the NHLS.
- As a consequence of this structure, the risk of collusion between participants is mitigated, and a level of objectivity is maintained.
- In order to achieve this accreditation, many stringent requirements must be met, which include:
 - Integrity of data, accuracy of results, and preservation of the confidential nature of participant results.

RESULTS (All Schemes)

- Participants may send results by either post or email, on the forms provided, to the relevant Scheme Manager on or before the nominated closing date.
- Some PT Scheme Managers may (by arrangement) allow participants to post/mail results, but this is not the preferred method.

NOTE: Because most of the PT Schemes statistically analyse participant performance by comparing individual results to a consensus of the mean, results received after the closing date (and thus after the calculation of the statistical mean) cannot be processed.

- Results submitted to an incorrect fax number or email address will also not be accepted.

REPORTS (All Schemes)

- Participant results shall be analysed and distributed before the next survey. Reports shall be printed and posted to participants.
- The delivery of these reports could be subcontracted to a courier company.

MYCOBACTERIOLOGY

- **TB Microscopy**

Scheme Manager:

e-mail:

Tel :

Fax:

Rounds shall be issued **two** times per year and consist of a panel of **ten** slides. These are stained by the participant with a method of their choice.

Laboratories are requested to grade the results according to the IUALTD.

TB Culture

- ***Scheme Manager:***

e-mail:

Tel :

Fax:

TB Culture rounds shall be issued **once** a year . Each round consists of 20 specimens for culture, identification and susceptibility testing. Laboratories are graded on the accuracy of their identification and susceptibility result. Each laboratory receives an individual report with their results and score.

GENEXPERT

- ***Scheme Manager:***

e-mail:

Tel :

Fax:

Rounds shall be issued **two** times per year and consist of a panel of FOUR CRYO-VIALS. These are run by the participant for each module.

NEW APPLICATIONS (All Schemes)

- All new NHLS laboratories are automatically enrolled by the PT coordinator. Participation fees are levied for applicants external to NHLS.
- Please direct requests for quotations and/or applications to:-

Name

e-

mail

Tel:

Fax:

- Material for the Schemes shall be purchased in advance; therefore new applications must be received by the closing date stipulated on the application form in order to be included in the following year's schemes

Acknowledgments

