

# SMARTLABTOOLS™ QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM

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A Collection of PDF Templates for Creating an  
Effective Statistical Quality Control Program

Daniel W. Leighton, MS,MT(ASCP),HCLD(ABB),CLB  
dan@smartlabtools.com

Ver.122616

# Introduction to SLT QC System

The SmartLabTools™ [Statistical Quality Control System](#) is comprised of a collection of downloadable [PDF templates](#) created to monitor the analytical performance of clinical laboratory testing. There are NO programs to install.

The simple to use, fill in the blanks templates [provide the immediate statistical information needed for decisions of accepting or rejecting test results](#) based on user defined QC limits and QC rules. The tools are widely applicable in the lab.

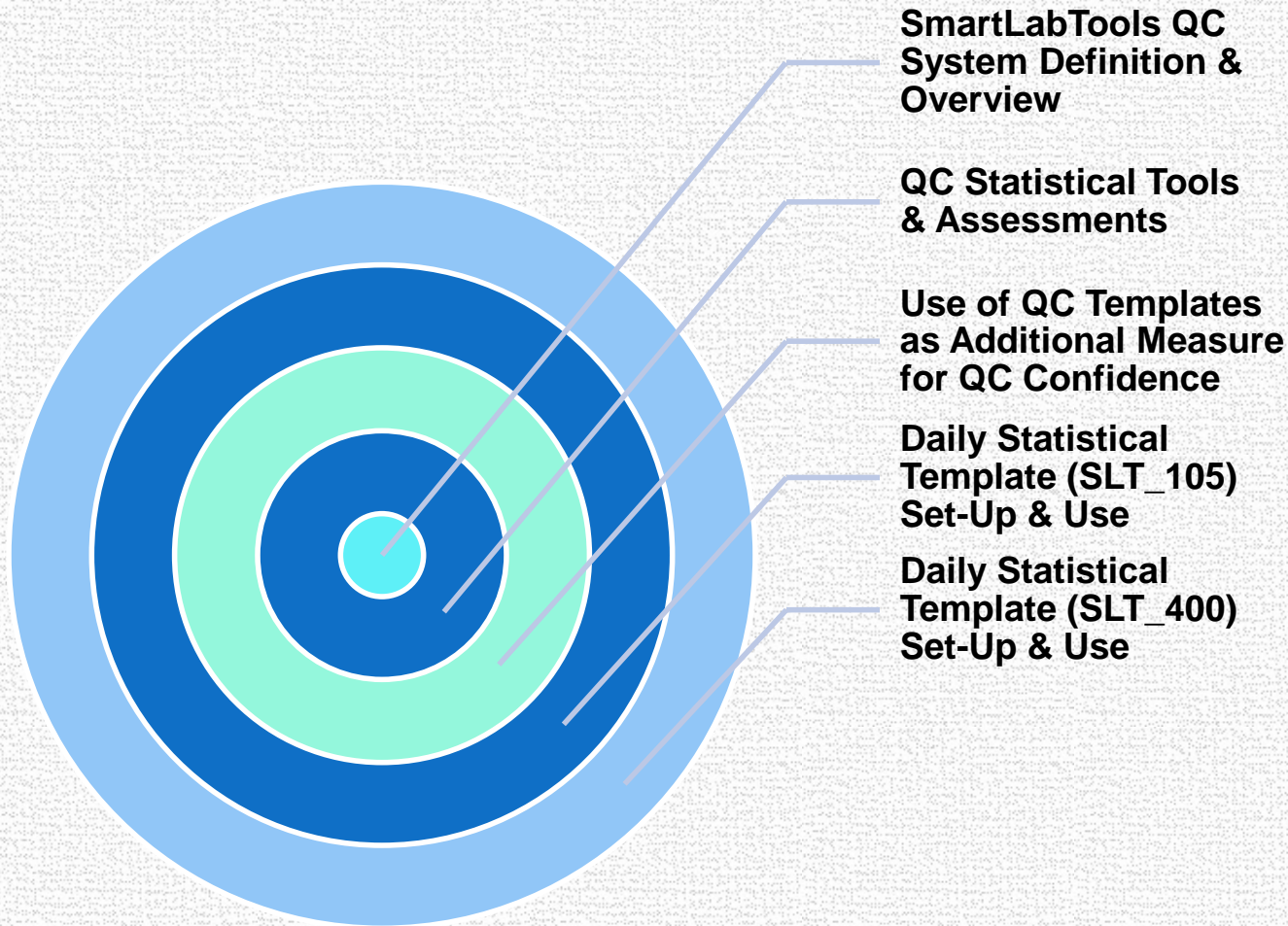
This presentation is meant as a teaching tool, for use of the QC System.

[Analysts will require fundamental QC skills](#) to competently implement the software, use control rules, interpret QC results, and for troubleshooting.

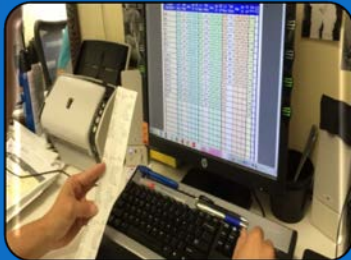
[Links to numerous educational resources are provided.](#)

Disclosure: The author has no financial relationships with any of the references mentioned.

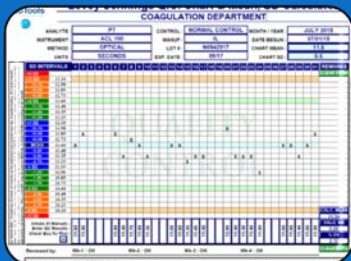
# (Section -1) QC System Overview



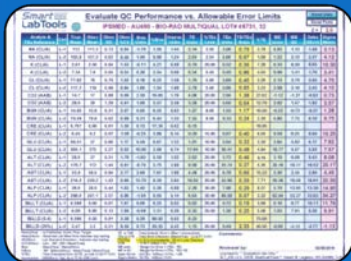
# IQCP or Regular QC ?



Whether you implement an Individualized Quality Control Program, or default CLIA regulated QC Program, you will want a means to verify that a measuring system is performing as expected.



SmartLabTools™ provides you with the resources needed to do just that with it's Statistical Calculators, L-J Charts, and QC Assessment Templates.



These downloadable PDF's require no programs to load, only the Free Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader



# Definition and Overview

Parameter	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Target	SD	QC
WBC	1.00	2.40	2.00	2.00	0.20	QC In
HGB	2.21	2.31	2.36	2.30	0.08	QC In
HCT	5.78	6.05	6.10	6.20	0.18	QC In
PLT	14.00	16.50	16.00	16.00	0.10	QC In
GRAN%	58.00	58.00	78.00	58.00	2.00	QC In
LYMP%	18.00	18.00	26.00	18.00	1.00	QC In
MID%	58.00	17.00	13.00	5.00	2.00	QC In

SmartLabTools™ Quality Control System provides a simplified practical approach to the immediate assessment of quality control data through the use of a collection of PDF™ templates programmed with statistical calculations necessary to assist the operator in determining if a quality control result is acceptable.

Parameter	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Target	SD	QC
WBC	1.00	2.40	2.00	2.00	0.20	QC In
HGB	2.21	2.31	2.36	2.30	0.08	QC In
HCT	5.78	6.05	6.10	6.20	0.18	QC In
PLT	14.00	16.50	16.00	16.00	0.10	QC In
GRAN%	58.00	58.00	78.00	58.00	2.00	QC In
LYMP%	18.00	18.00	26.00	18.00	1.00	QC In
MID%	58.00	17.00	13.00	5.00	2.00	QC In

This provides the foundation for the justification of reporting patient results. The interactive QC software may be applied as the primary, or as a secondary QC measure; for detection of Biases, and alert to potential Shifts, or Trends that could immediately or eventually affect the accuracy or reliability of patient test results.

# Basic QC Requirement

QC 16 R (COLA  
ACCREDITATION  
MANUAL)

- “For each quantitative test performed, are quality control data prepared and plotted with each testing event, or are statistical parameters calculated to permit the laboratory to assess continued accuracy and precision of the method?”

# QC Statistics – The Calculations

Mean

SD

CV

QC Limits

Bias

SDI

Z-score

- SLT QC Statistical Assessment Templates each contain the following “expert” educational link that explains statistics used.
- QC - The Calculations  
[westgard.com/lesson14.htm](http://westgard.com/lesson14.htm)

# Statistical Tools & Assessments

QC STATISTIC	DEFINITION / MEASURES
Mean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sum of individual measurements / # of measurements</li> <li>• An estimate of central tendency of stable system distribution</li> <li>• Relates to accuracy or systematic error</li> </ul>
Standard Deviation (SD)	$S = \sqrt{\frac{\sum(X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n-1}}$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows distribution of control results vs. expected mean</li> <li>• Measure of imprecision or random error</li> <li>• Greater the random error the more imprecise are the results</li> </ul>
Coefficient of Variation (CV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>CV = (SD/Mean) * 100</math></li> <li>• Standard deviation as a % of mean</li> <li>• Measure of random error or imprecision</li> </ul>



# Statistical Tools & Assessments

QC STATISTIC	DEFINITION / MEASURES
<b>Bias</b> (Observed QC Result) - (Target QC Result)	A measure of control result distance from the target mean in same units as the target. <u>QC objective</u> : <b>monitor change</b>
<b>SDI*(z-score)</b> An Indicator of Bias  <i>(Value – Target) / Target SD</i>  <b>AVE SDI (z)</b> 2 or 3 controls	A “z-score” describes how many standard deviations a control result is from the mean expected for the material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SDI (z-score) corresponds to where on a control chart a value falls</li> <li>• It is very helpful when you are looking at control results on different tests and different materials on a multi-test analyzer</li> <li>• <b>A Tech can quickly see what’s in, what’s out, and what’s trending</b></li> <li>• For example: If all levels of QC on an analyte have negative or have positive SDI(z-score), there may be a calibration bias</li> </ul> <p><i>Reference: Advance: Scott Warner, Blog 2014</i></p>

\* The Standard Deviation Index (SDI) is used when analyzing PT data, or external QC Program data for bias. Z-score is used for internal QC program data. Both terms are used interchangeably in the SLT QC Templates.

# Statistical Tools & Assessments

QC ALERTS	DEFINITION / ACTION
<p>SLT_105 Template</p> <p>SDI Adjustable Alert Flag</p>	<p><b>* <i>Trend Alert - Warrants Attention</i></b> Appears in the 'actions' section whenever a QC value exceeds the Trend Flag Alert Setting, which is adjustable.. (i.e. 1.0, 1.25, 1.5 SDI) An Asterisk(*) appears next to the QC Result.</p> <p><b>* <i>SDI &gt;2.0 Warrants Investigation</i></b> Appears in the 'actions' section whenever a QC value exceeds 2.0 SDI</p> <p><b>"QC Out"</b> In the <u>QC Out</u> column_when QC value exceeds 2.0 SDI</p>
<p>SLT_400 Template</p> <p>SDI Adjustable Alert Flag</p>	<p><b>* <i>Trend Alert – Warrants Attention</i></b> Appears in the 'actions' section whenever a QC value exceeds the Trend Flag Alert Setting, which is adjustable.. (i.e. 1.0, 1.25, 1.5 SDI)</p> <p><b>* <i>QC Out – Requires Investigation</i></b> Appears in the 'actions' section whenever a QC value exceeds 2.0 SDI</p> <p><b>"Out"</b> Appears in the <u>QC In?</u> column</p>

## How Does QC Statistical Assessment Help?

*My Analyzers have QC printouts...*

*QC is reviewed and released in LIS...*

*QC graphs are reviewed bi-weekly...*

## An Additional Measure of QC Confidence is provided when using SLT Statistical Assessment Templates:

Allows for **the immediate data analysis** needed to make a decision on the **acceptance or rejection** of an analytical run, and reporting patient results

QC problems are detected sooner when **Statistical Assessment is performed on individual QC entries** prior to releasing patient results

**Printouts summarize analyzer QC** for rapid review by Analyst, Supervisors, Consultants, and Director ( *Review 90 files in 9 Seconds* )

Serves as the **'Master' QC source**. Analyzer QC limits and LIS QC limits follow those established and managed with SLT QC template

**Additional QC reviews still recommended** bi-weekly or monthly, using L-J Charts & Statistical Summaries from Analyzer, LIS and Peer Reports

# Using the Daily QC Templates...

Set up for **Rapid Manual Data Entry** using [Tab] key

Calculates QC Result Bias, Provides SDI Calculations & **Flags Values that Exceed defined QC Limits**

'**QC O.K.**' or '**QC Out**' Messages are instantly generated, Alerting the analyst to when the method has a problem

One can **readily look down the column of SDI's for an Alert Flag** to see if a potential QC problem exists

When a QC problem exists, **provision is made on the same Template for Documenting the Remedial Actions**

# Daily QC Results Evaluation (SLT105)

## Example-1 (No QC Exceptions)

## Example-2 (With a QC Exception)

Smart LabTools											
QUALITY CONTROL RESULTS EVALUATION											
IPM LABORATORY											
<small>This Smart Lab Tool allows for comparison of Test Data to an Established QC Range. The difference, and Standard Deviation Index (SDI) are calculated. Any SDI-1.5 deserves special attention as in the future this bias may lead to QC failure. SDI-2.0 requires greater concern and is flagged as "Out".</small>											
HEMATOLOGY - ABX MICROS 60											
LOT# MX016L, MX016N, MX016H - EXP. 03/05/2016											
Specimen Source	Analyte Name	Low -2SD	High +2SD	Calc Mean	Calc 1SD	Test Value	Calc Bias	Calc SDI	QC In?	QC Out?	
LOW CTL	WBC	1.60	2.40	2.00	0.20	2.10	0.10	0.50	QC In		
MX016L	RBC	2.27	2.57	2.42	0.08	2.36	-0.06	-0.80	QC In		
	HGB	5.60	6.40	6.00	0.20	6.10	0.10	0.50	QC In		
	HCT	14.50	18.50	16.50	1.00	16.00	-0.50	-0.50	QC In		
	PLT	55.00	95.00	75.00	10.00	72.00	-3.00	-0.30	QC In		
GRAN %	GRAN %	17.50	31.50	24.50	3.50	24.50	0.00	0.00	QC In		
	LYMP %	57.50	73.50	65.50	4.00	65.9	0.40	0.10	QC In		
	MID %	4.00	16.00	10.00	3.00	9.60	-0.40	-0.13	QC In		
	NORM CTL	WBC	6.60	8.20	7.40	0.40	7.60	0.20	0.50	QC In	
MX016N	RBC	4.46	4.82	4.64	0.09	4.58	-0.06	-0.67	QC In		
	HGB	12.90	14.10	13.50	0.30	13.40	-0.10	-0.33	QC In		
	HCT	34.60	39.60	37.10	1.25	36.50	-0.60	-0.48	QC In		
	PLT	216.00	296.00	256.00	20.00	247.00	-9.00	-0.45	QC In		
GRAN %	GRAN %	52.00	66.00	59.00	3.50	61.20	2.20	0.63	QC In		
	LYMP %	27.00	39.00	33.00	3.00	31.70	-1.30	-0.43	QC In		
	MID %	3.00	13.00	8.00	2.50	7.10	-0.90	-0.36	QC In		
	HIGH CTL	WBC	18.20	21.40	19.80	0.80	19.60	-0.20	-0.25	QC In	
MX016H	RBC	5.46	5.86	5.66	0.10	5.60	-0.06	-0.60	QC In		
	HGB	17.60	19.00	18.30	0.35	18.20	-0.10	-0.29	QC In		
	HCT	47.40	53.40	50.40	1.50	49.60	-0.80	-0.53	QC In		
	PLT	437.00	567.00	502.00	32.50	483.00	-19.00	-0.58	QC In		
GRAN %	GRAN %	72.00	86.00	79.00	3.50	79.20	0.20	0.06	QC In		
	LYMP %	10.50	20.50	15.50	2.50	15.50	0.00	0.00	QC In		
	MID %	1.50	9.50	5.50	2.00	5.30	-0.20	-0.10	QC In		

QC item(s):  
 Problem:  
 Actions:

SLT\_CW105a v.070212  
 © SmartLabTools  
 2008-2013  
 Daniel W. Leighton

1/6/2016  
 7:24 am

Reset All  
 Reset Data  
 Click for Link To QC Reference

Kathy  
 Analyst

DL  
 Reviewed by

Smart LabTools											
QUALITY CONTROL RESULTS EVALUATION											
IPM LABORATORY											
<small>This Smart Lab Tool allows for comparison of Test Data to an Established QC Range. The difference, and Standard Deviation Index (SDI) are calculated. Any SDI-1.5 deserves special attention as in the future this bias may lead to QC failure. SDI-2.0 requires greater concern and is flagged as "Out".</small>											
HEMATOLOGY - ABX MICROS 60											
LOT# MX016L, MX016N, MX016H - EXP. 03/05/2016											
Specimen Source	Analyte Name	Low -2SD	High +2SD	Calc Mean	Calc 1SD	Test Value	Calc Bias	Calc SDI	QC In?	QC Out?	
LOW CTL	WBC	1.60	2.40	2.00	0.20	2.30	0.30	1.50	QC In		
MX016L	RBC	2.27	2.57	2.42	0.08	2.36	-0.06	-0.80	QC In		
	HGB	5.60	6.40	6.00	0.20	6.10	0.10	0.50	QC In		
	HCT	14.50	18.50	16.50	1.00	16.00	-0.50	-0.50	QC In		
	PLT	55.00	95.00	75.00	10.00	64.00	-11.00	-1.10	QC In		
GRAN %	GRAN %	17.50	31.50	24.50	3.50	24.50	0.00	0.00	QC In		
	LYMP %	57.50	73.50	65.50	4.00	65.90	0.40	0.10	QC In		
	MID %	4.00	16.00	10.00	3.00	9.60	-0.40	-0.13	QC In		
	NORM CTL	WBC	6.60	8.20	7.40	0.40	8.30	0.90	2.25	QC Out	
MX016N	RBC	4.46	4.82	4.64	0.09	4.50	-0.14	-1.55	QC In		
	HGB	12.90	14.10	13.50	0.30	13.40	-0.10	-0.33	QC In		
	HCT	34.60	39.60	37.10	1.25	36.50	-0.60	-0.48	QC In		
	PLT	216.00	296.00	256.00	20.00	247.00	-9.00	-0.45	QC In		
GRAN %	GRAN %	52.00	66.00	59.00	3.50	61.20	2.20	0.63	QC In		
	LYMP %	27.00	39.00	33.00	3.00	31.70	-1.30	-0.43	QC In		
	MID %	3.00	13.00	8.00	2.50	7.10	-0.90	-0.36	QC In		
	HIGH CTL	WBC	18.20	21.40	19.80	0.80	21.30	1.50	1.88	QC In	
MX016H	RBC	5.46	5.86	5.66	0.10	5.47	-0.19	-1.90	QC In		
	HGB	17.60	19.00	18.30	0.35	18.20	-0.10	-0.29	QC In		
	HCT	47.40	53.40	50.40	1.50	49.60	-0.80	-0.53	QC In		
	PLT	437.00	567.00	502.00	32.50	483.00	-19.00	-0.58	QC In		
GRAN %	GRAN %	72.00	86.00	79.00	3.50	79.20	0.20	0.06	QC In		
	LYMP %	10.50	20.50	15.50	2.50	15.50	0.00	0.00	QC In		
	MID %	1.50	9.50	5.50	2.00	5.30	-0.20	-0.10	QC In		

QC item(s): WBC outlier, RBC's biased low  
 Problem: WBC Control Out by >2SD, other 2 Levels Biased on High Side  
 Actions: Re-Calibrate Analyzer prior to running patient samples

SLT\_CW105a v.070212  
 © SmartLabTools  
 2008-2013  
 Daniel W. Leighton


1/6/2016  
 7:19 am

Reset All  
 Reset Data  
 Click for Link To QC Reference

Kathy  
 Analyst

DL  
 Reviewed by

# SLT\_105 Setting up the QC Template



Complex Formulas Made Simple

## QUALITY CONTROL RESULTS EVALUATION

### REPLACE WITH NAME OF LABORATORY

?

This Smart Lab Tool allows for comparison of Test Data to an Established QC Range. The difference, and Standard Deviation Index (SDI) are calculated. Any SDI>1.0 deserves special attention as in the future this bias may lead to QC failure. SDI>2.0 requires greater concern and is flagged as "Out".

< Replace with Test System Description >

Specimen Source	Analyte Name	Low -2SD	High +2SD	Calc Mean	Calc 1SD	Test Value	Calc Bias	Calc SDI	QC In?	QC Out?
L-1 Control	Glucose	100.00	110.00	105.00	2.50					
	Enter -2SD & +2SD Limits									

- Enter Name of Laboratory in Header
- Define Test System.. Instrument (Method) & Control Info.
- By Line, Enter Control, Analyte, QC Limits for up to 24 Files
- Mean & 1SD are Automatically Calculated
- Setup QC Template Test Order to Match Analyzer Printout
- "Save As".. To Name Your Customized Template
- Enter Results in Test Value Column, Using [Tab] Key
- After each use.. 'Save' Adding Date to File Name
- Click [Reset Data] Prior to Next Use
- [Reset All] Clears Template Completely

# SLT\_105 Data Entry & Assessment

HIGH CTL	WBC	18.30	22.30	20.30	1.00	I				
61930424	RBC	5.08	5.68	5.38	0.15					
	HGB	14.80	16.40	15.60	0.40					
	HCT	43.50	50.50	47.00	1.75					
	PLT	464.00	564.00	514.00	25.00					
	GRAN %	73.20	85.20	79.20	3.00					
	LYMP %	7.30	17.30	12.30	2.50					
	MONO %	4.40	12.40	8.40	2.00					
QC item(s):	Please Refer to website for									
Problem: ...	Interactive Demo of Data Entry									
Actions: ...										

Data is rapidly entered in QC Results Column using [Tab] key

[Reset Data] button clears QC Results, Interpretations, and QC Actions

[Click Here for Link to Download Free Demo Template](#)



# Statistical Assessment Template, SLT\_105

## Showing Bias Calculations & Interpretation

HEMATOLOGY - ABX MICROS 60										
LOT# MX400L, MX400N, MX400H - EXP. 09/05/2016										
Specimen Source	Analyte Name	Low -2SD	High +2SD	Calc Mean	Calc 1SD	Test Value	Calc Bias	Calc SDI	QC In?	QC Out?
LOW CTL	WBC	1.60	2.40	2.00	0.20	2.00	0.00	0.00	QC In	
MX400L	RBC	2.21	2.51	2.36	0.08	2.53	0.17	2.27 *		QC Out
	HGB	5.70	6.50	6.10	0.20	6.20	0.10	0.50	QC In	

## Flagged Alerts & Corrective Actions on Lower Page

<b>QC item(s):</b> RBC Low Ctl Out, Normal and High Controls Near Mean <b>Problem:</b> RBC Low Control Out High >2SD, <3SD first occurrence <b>Actions:</b> Opened New Vial of Control & Repeated, Low Ctl Now In ( 2.38 )		<input type="checkbox"/> * SDI >1.0 Warrants Attention <input type="checkbox"/> * SDI >2.0 Warrants Investigation <input type="checkbox"/>			
SLT_CW105a v.082116 © SmartLabTools 2008-2016 Daniel W. Leighton	<b>8/21/2016</b> <b>4:02 pm</b>	<input type="button" value="Reset All"/> <input type="button" value="Reset Data"/>	<input type="button" value="Click for Link To QC Reference"/>	<b>Morgan</b> Analyst	<b>DL</b> Reviewed by

# Multi-Level QC Statistical Assessment

Adjustable trend alert flagging and average SDI (z-score) statistic indices for up to 3-levels, 90 Files (SLT\_400)

## QC Data Entry & Assessment

## QC Parameter Set-up Page

TO START - SCROLL DOWN TO SECOND PAGE FOR SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

Smart LabTools <span style="float: right;">?</span>																	
ACR LABORATORY																	
DAILY Q.C. STATISTICAL ASSESSMENT																	
TEST SYSTEM:				INTEGRA 400+				INTEGRA 400+				INTEGRA 400+				Bias #/CTLs	
CONTROLS:				MULTIQUA 1				MULTIQUA 2				MULTIQUA 3				3	
LOT NUMBERS:				45681				45682				45683				Trend Flag =	
EXPIRATION:				06/30/16				06/30/16				06/30/16				1.5	
Analyte Description	L-1 Mean	Test Value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	L-2 Mean	Test Value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	L-3 Mean	Test Value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	Ave SDI (Z)	Trend
ALP	33.20	31	-2.20	-0.60	In	132.50	120	-12.50	-1.43	In	297.50	281	-16.50	-0.93	In	-0.99	
ALT	22.35	19	-3.35	-1.38	In	88.30	80	-8.30	-1.42	In	170.00	168	-2.00	-0.19	In	-1.00	
AST	39.75	38	-1.75	-0.72	In	105.50	98	-7.50	-1.11	In	236.00	232	-4.00	-0.25	In	-0.69	
DBIL	0.21	0.2	-0.01	-0.32	In	1.17	1.1	-0.07	-0.35	In	2.09	2.0	-0.08	-0.26	In	-0.31	
TBIL	0.51	0.6	0.09	1.00	In	2.86	2.9	0.05	0.19	In	6.77	6.3	-0.47	-0.94	In	0.08	
ALB	2.53	2.5	-0.03	-0.18	In	3.49	3.4	-0.09	-0.47	In	4.27	4.2	-0.07	-0.33	In	-0.32	
TP	3.95	4.1	0.16	0.85	In	5.39	5.6	0.22	0.95	In	6.54	6.7	0.17	0.61	In	0.80	
CA	6.01	5.8	-0.21	-0.98	In	10.33	10.2	-0.13	-0.34	In	13.10	13.0	-0.10	-0.20	In	-0.60	
PHOS	2.04	2.0	-0.04	-0.27	In	4.62	4.5	-0.12	-0.59	In	7.98	7.8	-0.18	-0.64	In	-0.50	
CREA	0.59	0.58	-0.01	-0.28	In	1.70	1.72	0.02	0.19	In	5.83	5.66	-0.17	-0.47	In	-0.19	
BUN	14.55	15.2	0.65	0.67	In	39.15	39.1	-0.05	-0.02	In	69.85	67.2	-2.65	-0.66	In	-0.00	
NA	113.50	116	2.50	0.91	In	138.50	141	2.50	0.77	In	154.00	154	0.00	0.00	In	0.66	
K	2.57	2.6	0.04	0.45	In	4.08	4.1	0.02	0.18	In	7.67	7.6	-0.07	-0.33	In	0.10	
CL	76.00	78	2.00	0.80	In	95.40	98	2.60	0.93	In	119.50	123	3.50	0.93	In	0.89	
CO2	16.55	16	-0.55	-0.29	In	19.90	19	-0.90	-0.41	In	25.20	25	-0.20	-0.08	In	-0.26	
GLUC	59.50	58	-1.50	-0.49	In	122.50	119	-3.50	-0.67	In	366.00	349	-17.00	-1.17	In	-0.78	
GGT	27.20	26	-1.20	-0.42	In	75.45	72	-3.45	-0.62	In	126.00	119	-7.00	-0.82	In	-0.62	
UA	3.64	3.7	0.06	0.35	In	5.39	5.4	0.01	0.04	In	9.62	9.8	0.18	0.46	In	0.29	
MG	1.11	1.1	-0.01	-0.11	In	2.58	2.5	-0.08	-0.59	In	3.75	3.6	-0.15	-0.81	In	-0.50	
CK	83.00	80	-3.00	-0.40	In	287.00	267	-20.00	-1.21	In	677.00	645	-32.00	-0.93	In	-0.85	
CHOL	110.45	113	2.55	0.48	In	181.00	184	3.00	0.38	In	263.00	262	-1.00	-0.09	In	0.26	
TRIG	88.90	93	4.10	0.80	In	134.50	138	3.50	0.52	In	220.00	225	5.00	0.56	In	0.62	
HDL	28.90	35	6.10	2.30	Out	49.55	57	7.45	1.59	In	85.00	91	6.00	0.71	In	1.53	*
LDH	123.00	122	-1.00	-0.17	In	181.00	179	-2.00	-0.25	In	404.50	403	-1.50	-0.09	In	-0.17	
C3	89.65	89	-0.65	-0.09	In	120.00	126	6.00	0.67	In	152.50	151	-1.50	-0.13	In	0.15	
C4	16.45	15	-1.45	-0.95	In	21.60	20	-1.60	-0.82	In	28.15	25	-3.15	-1.30	In	-1.02	
IGA	114.00	127	13.00	1.63	In	155.50	160	4.50	0.51	In	201.00	203	2.00	0.20	In	0.78	*
IGG	59.50	579	-20.50	-0.62	In	817.50	813	-4.50	-0.11	In	983.00	963	-20.00	-0.48	In	-0.40	
IGM	54.15	54	-0.15	-0.03	In	81.25	80	-1.25	-0.25	In	93.40	88	-5.40	-1.12	In	-0.47	

Comments / Actions: HDL - L-1 >2SD, other 2 controls in, biased on high side  
 Re-calibrate prior to next run. \* Trend Alert - Warrants Attention  
 \* QC Out - Requires Investigation

1/6/16  
08:57 Reset Data MICHAEL Analyst QN/DL Reviewed by

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Smart LabTools <span style="float: right;">?</span>															
ACR LABORATORY															
ESTABLISHED QUALITY CONTROL PARAMETERS															
QC Lesson															
Reset All															
TEST SYSTEM:				INTEGRA 400+				INTEGRA 400+				INTEGRA 400+			
CONTROLS:				MULTIQUA 1				MULTIQUA 2				MULTIQUA 3			
LOT NUMBERS:				45681				45682				45683			
EXPIRATION:				06/30/16				06/30/16				06/30/16			
Analyte Description	L-1 -2SD	L-1 +2SD	L-1 Mean	L-1 1SD	L-2 -2SD	L-2 +2SD	L-2 Mean	L-2 1SD	L-3 -2SD	L-3 +2SD	L-3 Mean	L-3 1SD			
ALP	25.9	40.5	33.20	3.65	115	150	132.50	8.75	262	333	297.50	17.75			
ALT	17.5	27.2	22.35	2.43	76.6	100	88.30	5.85	148.5	191.5	170.00	10.75			
AST	34.9	44.6	39.75	2.43	92	119	105.50	6.75	204	268	236.00	16.00			
DBIL	0.129	0.298	0.21	0.04	0.791	1.54	1.17	0.19	1.44	2.73	2.09	0.32			
TBIL	0.325	0.692	0.51	0.09	2.37	3.34	2.86	0.24	5.78	7.75	6.77	0.49			
ALB	2.24	2.81	2.53	0.14	3.12	3.85	3.49	0.18	3.84	4.70	4.27	0.22			
TP	3.58	4.31	3.95	0.18	4.93	5.84	5.39	0.23	5.99	7.08	6.54	0.27			
CA	5.58	6.44	6.01	0.22	9.56	11.1	10.33	0.39	12.1	14.1	13.10	0.50			
PHOS	1.78	2.29	2.04	0.13	4.21	5.03	4.62	0.21	7.42	8.54	7.98	0.28			
CREA	0.494	0.694	0.59	0.05	1.49	1.91	1.70	0.11	5.11	6.55	5.83	0.36			
BUN	12.6	16.5	14.55	0.98	34.6	43.7	39.15	2.28	61.8	77.9	69.85	4.03			
NA	108	119	113.50	2.75	132	145	138.50	3.25	147	161	154.00	3.50			
K	2.41	2.72	2.57	0.08	3.86	4.3	4.08	0.11	7.27	8.06	7.67	0.20			
CL	71	81	76.00	2.50	89.8	101	95.40	2.80	112	127	119.50	3.75			
CO2	12.7	20.4	16.55	1.93	15.5	24.3	19.90	2.20	19.9	30.5	25.20	2.65			
GLUC	53.4	65.6	59.50	3.05	112	133	122.50	5.25	337	395	366.00	14.50			
GGT	21.5	32.9	27.20	2.85	64.4	86.5	75.45	5.53	109	143	126.00	8.50			
UA	3.3	3.98	3.64	0.17	4.93	5.85	5.39	0.23	8.84	10.40	9.62	0.39			
MG	0.938	1.28	1.11	0.09	2.31	2.85	2.58	0.14	3.38	4.12	3.75	0.19			
CK	68.1	97.9	83.00	7.45	254	320	287.00	16.50	608	746	677.00	34.50			
CHOL	99.9	121	110.45	5.28	165	197	181.00	8.00	240	286	263.00	11.50			
TRIG	78.6	99.2	88.90	5.15	121	148	134.50	6.75	202	238	220.00	9.00			
HDL	23.6	34.2	28.90	2.65	40.2	58.9	49.55	4.68	68	102	85.00	8.50			
LDH	111	135	123.00	6.00	165	197	181.00	8.00	370	439	404.50	17.25			
C3	75.3	104	89.65	7.18	102	138	120.00	9.00	129	176	152.50	11.75			
C4	13.4	19.5	16.45	1.53	17.7	25.5	21.60	1.95	23.3	33.0	28.15	2.43			
IGA	98	130	114.00	8.00	138	173	155.50	5.83	181	221	201.00	10.00			
IGG	533	666	599.50	33.25	738	897	817.50	39.75	899	1067	983.00	42.00			
IGM	42.2	66.1	54.15	5.98	71.2	91.3	81.25	5.03	83.8	103.0	93.40	4.80			

Instructions on use of Multi-Level QC Assessment Template: be certain to use 'Save as' to re-name your template changes  
 1) Pg 2 edit headers and set up test system demographics - changes will appear on Pg.1  
 2) Pg 2 enter Analyte Descriptions, -2SD, +2SD QC limits - Mean & SD calculates on Pg 2, and Mean appears on Pg.1  
 3) Pg 1 upper right enter # Control Levels, i.e. 1, 2, or 3  
 4) Pg 1 upper right enter z-score Trend Flag Limit, i.e. 1.0, 1.2, 1.5 to establish alert flagging sensitivity  
 5) Pg 1 enter QC results, click on entry box or use TAB key for vertical column data entry  
 6) Observe: Bias (Mean-Result), z-score [(Mean-Result)/SD], AVE z-score [(sum of Z's)/#CTLs], QC "In", QC "Out"  
 7) Trend Alert Flags: Occur when any one Control level's z-score exceeds user-defined Trend Flag Limit  
 8) Observe and Document Actions in Comments section when Trend Alert message, or QC "Out" message appears

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# SLT\_400 Setting up the QC Template

Enter QC Test Values For Statistical Assessment on Page-1

Smart LabTools		ACR LABORATORY														DAILY Q.C. STATISTICAL ASSESSMENT		
TEST SYSTEM:	INTEGRA 400+	INTEGRA 400+	INTEGRA 400+															Bias # CTLs
CONTROLS:	MULTIQUAL 1	MULTIQUAL 2	MULTIQUAL 3															3
LOT NUMBERS:	45731	45732	45733															Trend Flag =
EXPIRATION:	02/28/18	02/28/18	02/28/18															1.5
Analyte Description	L-1 Mean	Test Value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	L-2 Mean	Test Value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	L-3 Mean	Test Value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	Ave SDI (Z)	Trend Alert	
ALP	30.45	24	-6.45	-1.88	In	138.00	123	-15.00	-1.43	In	267.50	248	-19.50	-1.20	In	-1.50	*	
ALT	30.50	29	-1.50	-0.45	In	91.30	83	-8.30	-1.21	In	194.00	183	-11.00	-0.96	In	-0.87		

Define QC System Descriptions & 2SD Limits on Page-2

Smart LabTools		ACR LABORATORY												ESTABLISHED QUALITY CONTROL PARAMETERS		QC Lesson
TEST SYSTEM:	INTEGRA 400+	INTEGRA 400+	INTEGRA 400+													Reset All
CONTROLS:	MULTIQUAL 1	MULTIQUAL 2	MULTIQUAL 3													
LOT NUMBERS:	45731	45732	45733													
EXPIRATION:	02/28/18	02/28/18	02/28/18													
Analyte Description	L-1 -2SD	L-1 +2SD	L-1 Mean	L-1 1SD	L-2 -2SD	L-2 +2SD	L-2 Mean	L-2 1SD	L-3 -2SD	L-3 +2SD	L-3 Mean	L-3 1SD				
ALP	23.6	37.3	30.45	3.43	117	159	138.00	10.50	235	300	267.50	16.25				
ALT	23.8	37.2	30.50	3.35	77.6	105	91.30	6.85	171	217	194.00	11.50				

# SLT\_400 Template Set-Up Instructions

## • Page-2 for QC Parameter Set-up

Instructions on use of Multi-Level QC Assessment Template: be certain to use 'Save as' to re-name your template changes

- 1) Pg.2 edit headers and set up test system demographics - changes will appear on Pg.1
- 2) Pg.2 enter Analyte Descriptions, -2SD, +2SD QC limits - Mean & SD calculates on Pg.2, and Mean appears on Pg.1
- 3) Pg.1 upper right enter # Control Levels.. i.e. 1, 2, or 3
- 4) Pg.1 upper right enter z-score Trend Flag Limit, i.e. 1.0, 1.2, 1.5 to establish alert flagging sensitivity
- 5) Pg.1 enter QC results..click on entry box or use TAB key for vertical column data entry.
- 6) Observe: Bias (Mean-Result), z-score  $[(\text{Mean-Result})/\text{SD}]$ , AVE z-score  $[(\text{sum of Z's})/\#\text{CTLs}]$ , QC "In", QC "Out"
- 7) Trend Alert Flags: Occur when any one Control level's z-score exceeds user-defined Trend Flag Limit
- 8) Observe and Document Actions in Comments section when Trend Alert message, or QC "Out" message appears

## • Page-1 Upper Right Settings

Bias # CTLs
3
Trend Flag =
1.5

- Set No. of Controls for Ave Bias Calc.
- Set Trend Flag for Alert Sensitivity

# SLT\_400 Help Icons & Buttons

**Smart LabTools** ?

**Dan Leighton - Multi-Level QC Template Purpose:**

User definable template for manual entry of QC results - instantly computes statistical indices, permitting the laboratory to assess continued accuracy and precision of test methods. QC Out, and Trend flags alert the analyst to significant biases (shifts or trends) for up to 3-levels of QC. Early actions may then be taken to address test system problems. Comments and remedial actions may be recorded below.

- SEE INSTRUCTIONS BOTTOM PG.2  
MESSAGE AT TOP MAY BE ERASED

**Dan Leighton**

The z-score (SD Interval) statistic used with internal QC programs tells how many standard deviations a control value is from the mean value expected for that material. It is a calculation similar to the SDI (standard deviation index), used with External QC Programs and Proficiency Testing programs. SDI being the more familiar term is used here with z-score.

A z-score of +1.7 means that the test value was +1.7 standard deviations above the mean.  
A z-score of -1.7 signifies a value below the mean.  
Control results with (+/-) z-scores greater than the Trend Flag setting, trigger a Trend Alert flag.

19:55 **Reset Data**

Resets Only the Test Results 016, SmartLab

**QUALITY CONTROL PARAMETERS**  **Reset All**

CAUTION!! This Button Clears All Custom Parameters

**IF LAB ON PAGE-2** ? **QC Lesson**

Link to Westgard.com for QC Lesson 14 **All**

# SLT\_400 Data Entry & Assessment

TEST SYSTEM:	INTEGRA 400+					INTEGRA 400+					INTEGRA 400+					Bias # CTLs	
CONTROLS:	MULTIQUAL 1					MULTIQUAL 2					MULTIQUAL 3					3	
LOT NUMBERS:	45731					45732					45733					Trend Flag =	
EXPIRATION:	02/28/18					02/28/18					02/28/18					1.5	
Analyte Description	L-1 Mean	Test Value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	L-2 Mean	Test Value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	L-3 Mean	Test Value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	Ave SDI (Z)	Trend Alert
ALP	30.45	27	-3.45	-1.01	In	138.00	134	-4.00	-0.38	In	270.00					-0.46	
ALT	30.50	29	-1.50	-0.45	In	91.30	88	-3.30	-0.48	In	194.00					-0.31	
AST	36.75	38	1.25	0.45	In	103.95	103	-0.95	-0.13	In	247.00					0.11	
DBIL	0.20	0.2	0.00	0.04	In	1.09	1.0	-0.09	-0.52	In	1.95					-0.16	
TBIL	0.47	0.5	0.03	0.33	In	2.83	2.8	-0.03	-0.11	In	6.41					0.07	
ALB	2.37	2.2	-0.17	-1.20	In	3.49	3.3	-0.19	-0.88	In	4.59					-0.69	

Data is rapidly entered in QC Results Column using [Tab] key

[Reset Data] button clears QC Results, Interpretations, and QC Actions

[Click Here for Link to Download Free Demo Template](#)

Please Refer to website for  
Interactive Demo of Data Entry

# QC Out Flagging & Trend Alerts

TEST SYSTEM:	ABBOTT CELL-DYN 1800					ABBOTT CELL-DYN 1800					ABBOTT CELL-DYN 1800					Bias # CTLs	
CONTROLS:	ABBOTT					ABBOTT					ABBOTT					3	
LOT NUMBERS:	5327					5327					5327					Trend Flag =	
EXPIRATION:	03/11/16					03/11/16					03/11/16					1.0	
Analyte Description	L-1 Mean	Test Value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	L-2 Mean	Test Value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	L-3 Mean	Test value	Bias	SDI (Z)	QC In?	Ave SDI (z)	Trend Alert
WBC	2.10	2.3	0.20	1.00	In	7.20	7.9	0.70	1.40	In	15.90	16.1	0.20	0.16	In	0.85	*
RBC	2.36	2.10	-0.26	-2.60	Out	4.24	4.09	-0.15	-1.20	In	5.31	5.22	-0.09	-0.60	In	-1.47	*
HGB	5.70	5.8	0.10	0.40	In	11.50	11.7	0.20	0.57	In	16.20	16.6	0.40	0.80	In	0.59	

- RBC: **SDI(z) >2.0 (-2.60)** gives a **'QC Out' Flag**, as result is beyond **2SD**.
- *Note: Choice of QC rejection or acceptance rules must be defined by the user.  
(A references link to Westgard.com is provided on each template to facilitate choice of QC rules.)*
- Observe: Calibration Bias for RBC... All 3 Levels on low side of mean with **Ave SDI(z) = -1.47** (on average, results are falling **1.5SD** below the mean)
- WBC: **SDI(z) value of 1.40** exceeded the **Trend Alert Flag setting of 1.0** for L-2 Control, therefore **\*\*** appears in **Trend Alert** column. **Ave SDI(z) = 0.85** (Control on high side of mean warrants review of past & future QC for shifts or trends)

# Creation of Interactive “Smart” PDF Forms

- 2 examples of Fields with JavaScript Calculations

● Custom calculation script:

```
((Math.abs((this.getField("FillText5").value)>
(this.getField("FillText1025").value)?"*":((Mat
h.abs((this.getField("FillText582").value)>
(this.getField("FillText1025").value)?"*":((Mat
h.abs((this.getField("FillText587").value)>
(this.getField("FillText1025").value)?"*":""))))
```

Determines QC Trend Flag Alert (\*), or Not

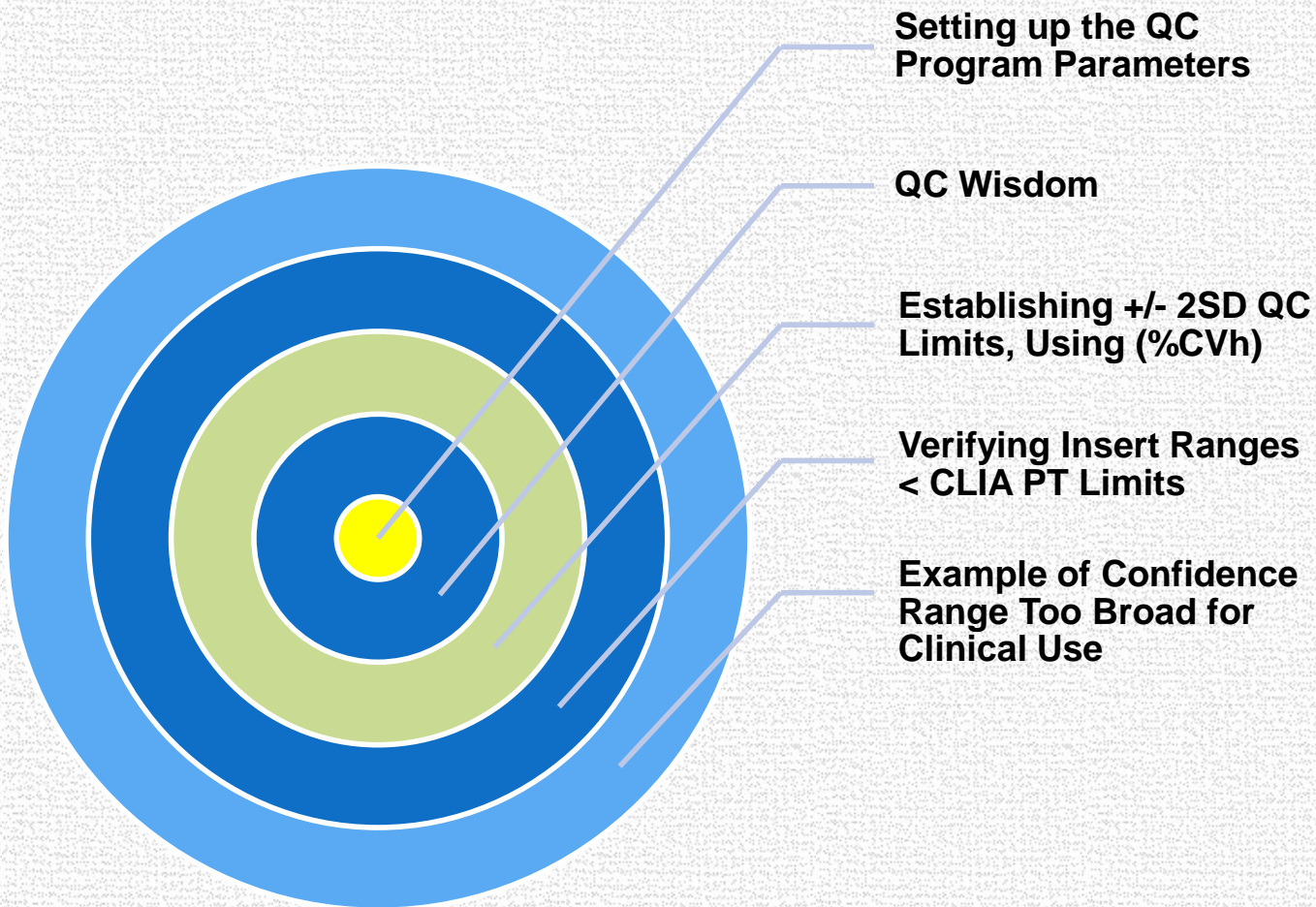
● Custom calculation script:

```
(((((this.getField("FillText585").value<(this.get
Field("FillText206").value)&&((this.getField("
FillText585").value>0))?"Out":(((this.getField(
"FillText585").value>
(this.getField("FillText207").value)"Out":(((t
his.getField("FillText585").value>0)"In":""))))
```

Determines QC “Out” or QC “In”



# (Section-2) Setting up the QC System



# Setting up the Default QC Program

Step	Activity	Purpose
1.	Define the QC Requirements of the Assay (2 levels minimum)	Select the QC controls to use, Assayed, Un-assayed, 2 or 3 levels
2.	Locate published QC Means and Ranges when available	Package Insert Values, On-line Insert, or Peer Group data if un-assayed
3.	Perform replicate study on QC to confirm published ranges, or for establishing new limits	When initially validating an assay or parallel testing a new lot of control <i>(SLT_413), (SLT_415), other SLT calculator</i>
4.	Determination of Mean & QC Limits for each level of control	Compare Mean, SD, CV%, to Insert values, Peer, Lab Historical Statistics
5.	Determine Total Allowable Error limits for the Assay (TEa)	QC limits for the assay not to exceed TEa .. (CLIA, CVb, etc.) <i>(SLT_110, 419)</i>
6.	Select Control Rules	Refer to Westgard Rules
7.	Use $1_{2s}$ as Warning Rule	$2_{2s} / 1_{3s}$ suggested as Rejection Rules

# Some QC Wisdom...

	Advise	Comments
1	Do not accept without verification the analyte levels (insert limits) given on commercial QC Products	QC limits given with commercial QC products are often too broad for clinical use ( <i>see example slide -31</i> )
2	Verify given insert limits are 2SD or 3SD, often they are 3SD	SLT Templates require 2SD limits, Verify SD with <a href="#">SLT_111 Template</a>
3	Do not use limits that exceed the CLIA Proficiency Testing Limits, or risk failing PT, and Ineffective QC	Analytical Allowable CLIA Error (TEa) Assay limits, and Calculator are available on the <a href="#">SLT_110 Template</a> .
4	Biological Variation tables are another source of Error Limits	(CVb) limits tables may be found on the Westgard website
5	Read The Control Product Insert Instructions & disclaimers (Examiners will read them)	Adhering to stability claims is helpful for avoiding unnecessary rejections and troubleshooting
6	Examiners read QC Procedures	..and hold you to the written word

# Establishing Your Lab's +/- 2SD QC Limits

	Resource	Comments / Reference Links
1	<p>“Chemistry Guideline for Establishing New Control Lot Means and Quality Control (QC) Ranges Through Parallel Testing and Historic Coefficient of Variation (%CVh)”</p> <p>Authored by Kurt Michael and Paul Richardson</p>	<p>Click on Reference Link:  <a href="#">Establishing Chemistry QC Ranges</a></p>  <p><a href="#">Link to pSMILE</a></p>
2	<p>“Best Practices in Establishing Quality Control Parameters”</p> <p>Authored by M. Laura Parnas, PhD            Source: Clinical Laboratory News</p>	<p>Click on Reference Link:  <a href="#">Best Practices in Establishing QC Parameters</a></p>
3	<p>“Planning a Statistical Quality Control Strategy”</p> <p>Authored by Greg Miller, PhD            Source: AACC 2016 Workshop</p>	<p>Click on Reference Link:  <a href="#">“Planning a Statistical Quality Control Strategy”</a></p>
4	<p>SmartLabTools Templates to Calculate +/- 2SD Limits using (%CVh)</p>	<p>Templates <a href="#">SLT_417</a>, <a href="#">SLT_111.d</a></p>

# SLT\_111 to Calculate 2SD Limits (%CVh)

My eInserts target means, Bio-Rad QC <http://www.qcnet.com/>,



Glucose	Hexokinase	mg/dL	Level	Mon	Cum	Level	Mon	Cum	Level	Mon	Cum
Siemens Dimension Series											
Mean	1	62.83	63.00	2	126.4	126.6	3	364.8	366.5		
SD		1.68	1.85		2.38	2.84		7.68	7.43		
CV		2.7	2.9		1.9	2.2		2.1	2.0		
# Points		8475	113K		1883	20102		8267	113K		
# Labs		242	344		37	54		236	334		

**Peer Summary with Large User Data Base, for Most Accurate Estimate of the Method Control Means**

**Example Shows Calculation of Interim 2SD Limits using Peer Means & Prior Month's CV's**

**Using New Lot Parallel Testing Means, & Lab Prior CV's is Preferred For Calculating Interim 2SD Limits**

Enter Mean and CV% to Calculate 1SD, and 2SD QC Limits

Control Level	Mean	CV%	1SD	- 2SD Limit	+2SD Limit
Level-1	63.00	2.70	1.70	59.60	66.40
Level-2	126.00	1.90	2.39	121.21	130.79
Level-3	365.00	2.10	7.67	349.67	380.33

Reset

Comments: Use to Calculate 2SD Limits based on Peer Historical CV%

# Verify QC Limits $\leq$ CLIA PT Limits



## Calculator for Evaluating Control Limits Based on Total Allowable Error Limits

### EVALUATING GLUCOSE RANGES

TEa Limits				If use TEa (%)			If use TEa (Value)		
Control Level	Mean	Limit %	Limit Val	Low	High	1SD	Low	High	1SD
Level-1									
Level-2									
Level-3									

Reset

This simple calculator assists with evaluating QC Limits based on analytic quality requirements, such as Proficiency Testing (PT) allowable error limits.

The TABLE below lists information on CLIA proficiency testing criteria for acceptable analytical performance, as printed in the Federal Register February 28, 1992;57(40):7002-186.

Use CLIA PT limits as a guide, and not set your QC limits wider, else risk failing PT Challenges.

Laboratories are responsible for setting their own limits.

# Example: Insert Limits (3SD), Range > CLIA

C	INSERT			U	⊕	Confidence range	1 SD
SODIUM-E		•		mmol/L mg/dL mEq/L (mval/L)	150 345 150	135 - 165 309 - 381 135 - 165	5 12 5

Enter Known Mean and SD to Calculate CV%, 2SD, 3SD Limits

(SLT\_111)

“Confidence Range”  
is 3SD Limits

Control Level	Mean	1SD	- 2SD	+2SD	- 3SD	+3SD	CV%
Level-1							
Level-2	150.00	5.00	140.00	160.00	135.00	165.00	3.33

(SLT\_110 Calc. CLIA Limits) CLIA PT Limits

If use CLIA PT (%)

If use CLIA PT (Value)

Control Level	Mean	Limit %	Limit Val
Level-1	150.00		4.00

Low	High	1SD
150.00	150.00	

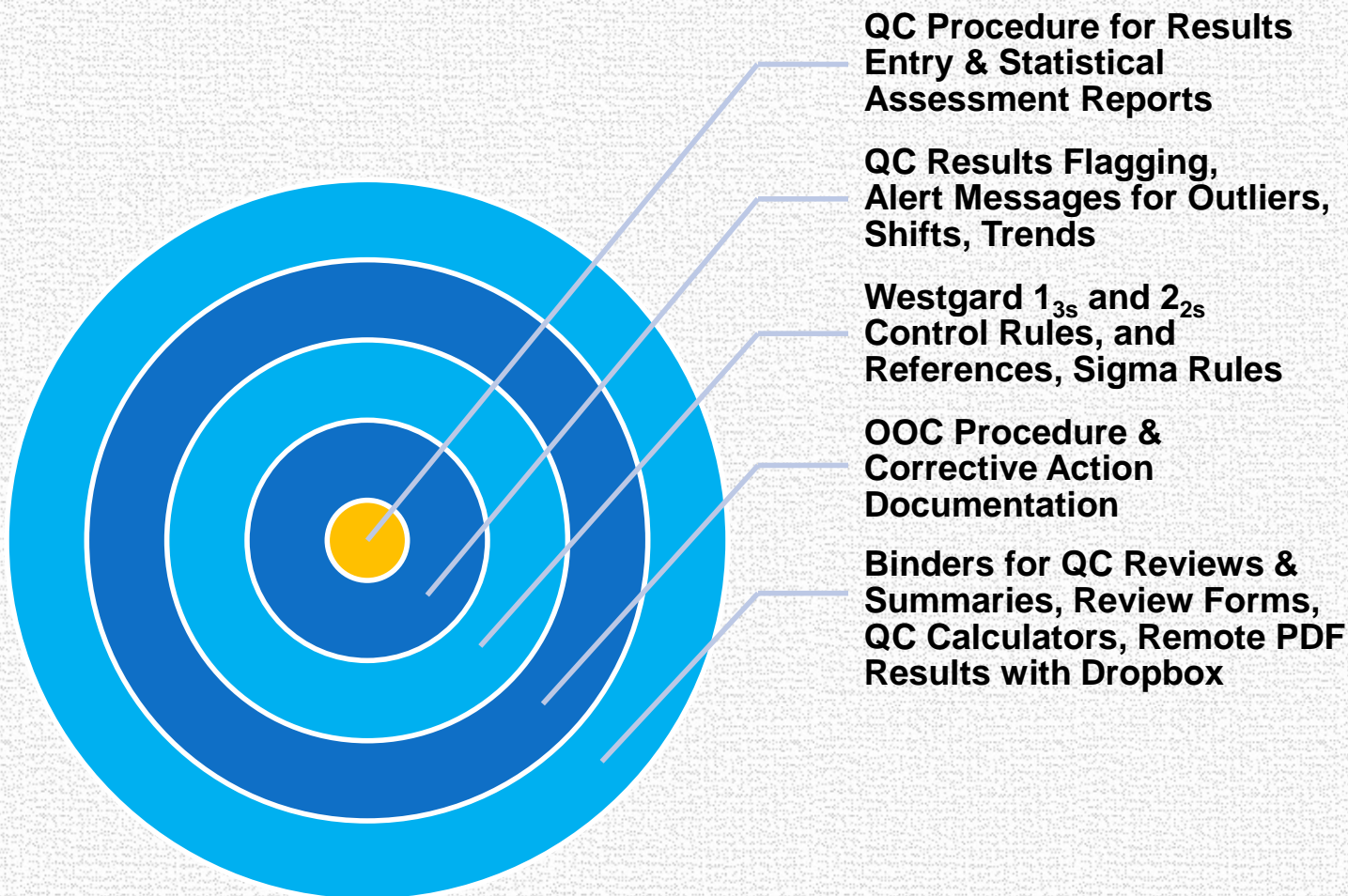
Low	High	1SD
146.00	154.00	2.00

Sodium (mmol/L) **			
	CH-01	133	127 - 136
	CH-02	163	157 - 166
	CH-03	199	195 - 204
	CH-04	150	146 - 154
	CH-05	174	169 - 178

Use of CLIA Limits in API PT Program

Manufacturer “Confidence range” SD is 2.5 x that allowed by CLIA

# (Section-3) Policies & Procedures





## P&P-1: Results Entry & Statistical Assessment

1. QC Results from select instrument quality control printouts, or worksheets, are manually entered into the designated SmartLabTools™ QC template for instant statistical assessment and interpretation.
2. Entered results are evaluated against the assigned 2SD QC limits which may be verified product insert or user-defined ranges. The Analytical Bias and Standard Deviation Index (SDI) are calculated and displayed.
3. “QC In” interpretation appears when QC results are acceptable, else “QC Out”, and alarm messages appear to Alert the analyst when there is a method problem.

## P&P-2: QC Results Flagging

4. An important element of the SLT QC System is the immediate flagging of results which have exceeded Alert Flag\* setting, signaling an early warning to a potential QC Shift or Trend, and 'QC Out' flagging whenever user defined 2SD acceptance limits are exceeded.
5. An SDI of  $>$  Trend Flag setting is denoted with an asterisk (\*), whereas an SDI of  $>2.0$  is of greater concern and shows as 'Out' in the (QC In?) column. Flagged results are immediately recognizable for further interpretation against the laboratory's defined QC rules. Investigation or Corrective Action may be warranted, and can be documented at the bottom of the QC template.

# P&P-3:

## Statistical Assessment (Trend Alert Flags)

6. With Alert Flagging (\*), the following message appears at the bottom of the page when the adjustable set SDI Alert limits are exceeded for any single QC event:

*“Trend Alert - Warrants Attention”*

7. Trends are defined as a series of controls above or below the mean, remain within limits, and indicates systematic error.

Flagged (\*) analytes need be examined further by the analyst for previously flagged results for the same control, and for flagged results of related controls (other levels). The *“Ave SDI (z-score)”* helps when evaluating systematic error such as calibration bias.

*(Alerts to results exceeding set SDI limits, but does not track QC results from consecutive runs)*

8. Acknowledgement of review or investigation of the flagged condition can be made by placement of the operator initials on the printout, adjacent to the flagged results.

## P&P-4: Statistical Assessment (“QC Out”)

9. Results that exceed 2SDI (>2.0 standard deviations) are flagged as “QC Out” and require the analyst to examine the condition to see which QC Rules may have been violated (see *Control Rules Guidelines*), and if warranted, take remedial measures to correct the condition. The following alert message appears at lower page:

“QC Out - Requires Investigation”    SLT\_400  
“SDI >2.0 Warrants Investigation”    SLT\_105

**Comment:** “An analytical run should not be rejected if a single quality control value is outside the  $\pm 2s$  QC limits but within the  $\pm 3s$  QC limits. Approximately 4.5% of all valid QC values will fall somewhere between  $\pm 2$  and  $\pm 3$  standard deviation limits. Laboratories that use a  $\pm 2s$  limit frequently reject good runs. That means patient samples are repeated unnecessarily, labor and materials are wasted, and patient results are unnecessarily delayed.”

[Comment Link : BioRad – QC Education, QC Workbook 2008, Authored by: Greg Cooper, CLS, MHA](#)

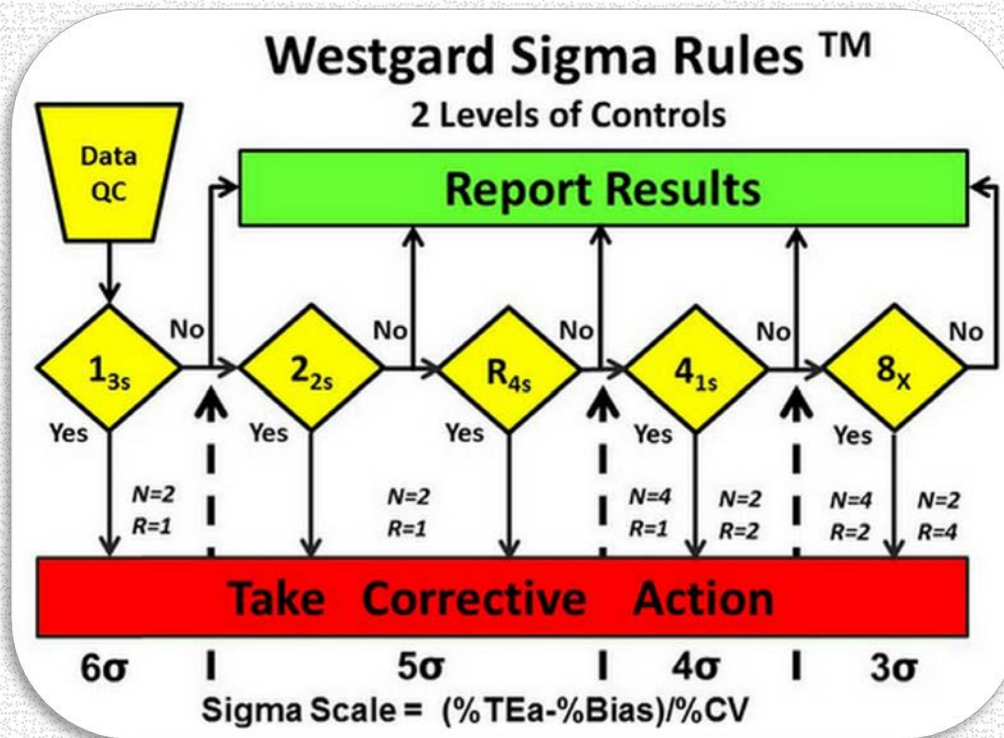
# P&P-5:

## Defining Lab's Own QC Rules

Rule	Some examples of Westgard Rules
* $1_{3s}$	One QC event falls beyond either +3SD or -3SD
* $2_{2s}$	Two consecutive QC events fall beyond the same 2SD limit (either +2SD or -2SD)
* 2 of $3_{2s}$	Two of three results for same QC event/analyte beyond 2SD limit (either +2SD or -2SD)
$4_{1s}$	Four consecutive QC events fall beyond the same 1SD line (either +1SD or -1SD)
$R_{4s}$	Two consecutive QC events fall a distance of 4SD from each other

- Westgard Rules may refer to within a QC event (eg, comparing results of the high and the low QC material) or across QC events (eg, comparing the prior high QC material result with the current high QC material result).
- \* **Suggested Control Rules** when evaluating SLT QC Statistical Assessment Templates.
- The  $1_{2s}$  rule (not shown) is generally considered as a 'warning rule'.
- *Each laboratory must establish it's own QC rules and practices, as approved by the Laboratory Director.*
- Refer to [Westgard.com](https://www.westgard.com) for QC Lessons and use of QC Rules <https://www.westgard.com/lesson74.htm>  
<https://www.westgard.com/lesson18.htm>

# Sigma Rules - Based on Assay Quality Performance



The Westgard Sigma Rules diagram(s) makes it easy to select the **right control rules** and the **right number of control measurements**.

[Link to : westgard.com/westgard-sigma-rules](http://westgard.com/westgard-sigma-rules)

Link to : [westgard.com](http://westgard.com) for latest QC manual

[Link to : SLT\\_419 Sigma Calculator](#)

## P&P-6:

### The $1_{2s}$ QC Rule not cause for rejection

#### Accept Run and Report Patient Results if:

1. All controls are within  $\pm 2SD$  of the established mean.
2. ( $1_{2s}$ ) One control is within  $\pm 2SD$  second control  $> 2SD$ , but within  $\pm 3SD$  ( $< 3.0 SDI$ ), acceptable for first time only.

***Treat the outlier as a warning, and be alert to potential  $2_{2s}$  should same QC be  $> 2SD$  next run.***

# P&P-7:

## Using $1_{3s}$ and $2_{2s}$ QC Rules

### Reject a run and Take Corrective Action If:

1. One control is greater than  $\pm 3SD$  ( $3.0 SDI$ ) from the established mean. ( $1_{3s}$ ) rule violation.
2. Two controls for same analyte are greater than  $\pm 2SD$  from the established mean. ( $2_{2s}$ ) rule violation
3. Refer to the lab's Q.C. Corrective Action Procedure, and Documentation Procedure if run is rejected.
4. Flagged analytes \* *Trend Alert*, will be monitored and used as a "warning" to investigate potential QC problems.
5. Shifts and Trends in control values are not suggested as criteria for rejecting or accepting control results.



## P&P-8:

# Daily QC Statistical Assessment Report

1. The *'Daily QC Statistical Assessment Report'* is visually analyzed, any necessary actions taken, printed, signed by the analyst, and filed in the *Daily QC Review Binder* for further review by the Director or his designee.
2. The *'Daily QC Statistical Assessment Report'* is also 'Saved' to the designated folder in the web application 'Dropbox' for off-site review by the Technical Supervisor. QC Report is saved using file-name and testing date. *(examples to follow)*
3. For next run/day use, select prior run/day report, and use the *[Reset Data]* button to clear prior test data, interpretation, and corrective actions. Enter current data, and repeat process.

## P&P-9: Out of Control Corrective Measures

1. If the results of the controls are beyond established limits as indicated by being flagged as '**Out**' by the analyzer or SmartLabTools™ QC software, and meet  $2_{2s}$  or  $1_{3s}$  run rejection criteria, then investigate the condition before repeating the controls. (*Refer to Laboratory's own QC Rules and Repeat Criteria*)
2. If QC is still out, corrective action should be taken and documented. Some examples of corrective action are preparation of fresh controls or reagents, checking expiration dates and lot numbers, checking calibration and proper operation of the instrument, cleaning the instrument, etc.

## P&P-10: Out of Control Measures (Cont.)

3. If the problem is limited to the control only, no further steps need be taken other than to demonstrate satisfactory performance with another control. *The repeat value may be documented by typing into a blank section of the QC Template.*
4. If the problem is corrected, all specimens run from the time the problem was detected must be re-run. Specimens run before the problem was identified and when controls were “in control” need not be re-run. Careful investigation needs be done to identify the exact point when the problem occurred.


## P&P-11: Out of Control Measures (Cont.)

5. If the problem cannot be identified, results cannot be released. Instrument should be shut down and technical support should be called for troubleshooting and service. Use the backup equipment when available. If alternate testing devices are not available, notify the Lab Director or Designee immediately.

# P&P-12

## Corrective Action - Documentation

Document Q.C. problems and corrective action on the '[Daily QC Statistical Assessment Report](#)' or a designated Instrument '[Corrective Action Form](#)', as below. (SLT\_200)



### CLINICAL LABORATORY

## Corrective Action Form

**PENTRA-400 CHEMISTRY**

Date	Tech	Problem	Resolution
<div style="font-size: small;">           ← September 2016 →            Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat            28 29 30 31 1 2 3            4 5 6 7 8 9 10            11 12 13 14 15 16 17            18 19 20 21 22 23 24            25 <b>26</b> 27 28 29 30 1            2 3 4 5 6 7 8  <input type="checkbox"/> Today: 9/26/2016         </div>	DL	RECORD CONTROL REPEATS AND MINOR QC ISSUES ON THE 'DAILY QC STATISTICAL INDICES EVALUATION FORM'.	DOCUMENT INSTRUMENT, AND OTHER OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS ON THIS FORM.  PRINT CORRECTIVE ACTION FORM MONTHLY AND FILE IN THE DAILY QC BINDER.
Date	Tech	Problem	Resolution
	DL	ELECTRONIC CALENDAR	

# P&P-13

## The Daily QC Review Binder Contents

1. 'Daily QC Review Binders' are prepared for each Test System, to contain the daily QC reports
2. 'Daily QC Assessment Reports' are hole-punched and saved in the month-tabbed 2"-3" Binders (See SLP 500 Binders)
3. Optionally include analyzer QC printouts with the Daily Reports
4. Include Corrective Actions, QC Inserts, Peer Reports, QC Parallel Testing Statistics, Service Reports, in this binder or other designated binder



# Templates – Binder Cover & 2” Spines

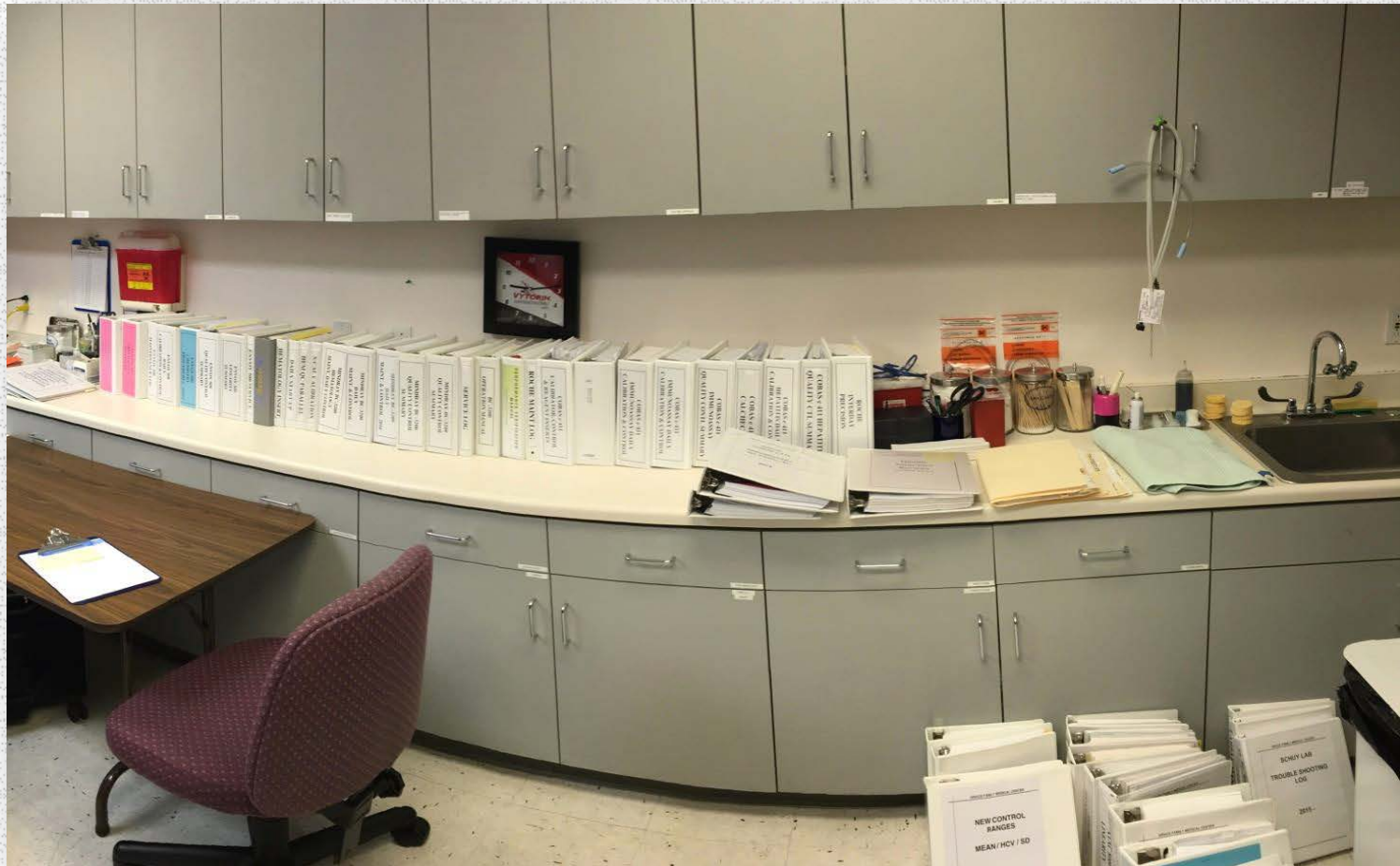
<p>IMMUNOLOGY SPECIALISTS Clinical Laboratory</p> <p><b>ACE AXCEL DAILY QC ASSESSMENT RECORDS</b></p> <p>*****</p> <p><b>2016</b></p> <p><b>Jan.-June</b></p> <p>*****</p>
--

<p><b>HEMATOLOGY QC JANUARY - APRIL 2016</b></p>
<p><b>ACE AXCEL DAILY QC VOL.1: JAN. - JUNE 2016</b></p>
<p><b>IMMULITE DAILY QC VOL.1: JAN. - JUNE 2016</b></p> <p>Reset Labels</p>

[Click Link For Free Download](#)



# Binders Organized for an Inspection



# P&P-14

## Monthly QC Review - Summary

1. Be sure that EACH 'Daily QC Assessment Report' has been reviewed and initialed by the Testing Person & a responsible Lab Supervisor, TS, TC, or Director
2. Include an EOM 'Monthly QC Review Summary' describe the significant QC exceptions (if any) that occurred for that month. (See SLT\_202 )

# P&P-15

## L-J Graph – Screen Reviews

1. **Weekly**, L-J Graph Screen Reviews of Quality Control Files on the Clinical Analyzers or LIS are recommended when available.
2. **Monthly**, L-J Charts may be viewed only, selectively printed, or all printed.
3. Documentation of L-J reviews by Supervisory Staff may be recorded on the *'SLT\_210 Levey-Jennings Review Log'*.
4. Review logs may be kept in the *'Daily QC Review Binder'*.

# P&P-16

## Monthly QC Results Reviews

1. **Monthly**, or more frequently, as warranted, any additional QC information is gathered and reviewed alongside the accumulation of *'Daily QC Statistical Assessment Reports'*.
2. When available, include in the monthly review;
  - a) QC Statistical Summaries from instruments or LIS
  - b) Graphical representations from instruments or LIS
  - c) Peer reports from inter-laboratory QC programs (EQC)
  - d) Proficiency Results (EQA)
  - e) Updated QC product inserts and notices
3. Reviews should include evaluation of Control Mean and SD assignments, and updated when indicated.  
*(SLT\_419 is a useful tool when evaluating QC limits)*

# P&P-17

## QC Review & Approval Form

1. **Monthly**, an '*SLT\_202 Quality Control Review and Approval Form*' is attached to the front of each QC product's monthly collection of '*Daily QC Statistical Assessment Reports*', as well any additional QC documents.
2. Document monthly review comments, with notation of QC exceptions, and actions taken or recommended, & follow-ups.
3. Emphasis on maintenance of acceptable QC performance, and effectiveness of remedial measures taken for QC exceptions.
4. Reviewers should consist of Testing Personnel, Supervisor, Technical Supervisor, as well as Director and/or designee.



# QC Review Forms (cont.)

**NAME OF LABORATORY GOES HERE**  
Quality Assurance / Quality Control  
Review Form

Review: Monthly QA/QC Notes

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Month of Review: September  Review Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

Use This Form To Comment on Monthly QC or QA Issues  
'Save' your Notes to a Dropbox QA/QC Review Folder

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Laboratory Staff: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Technical Consultant/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SLT\_215 SmartLabTools.com

**NAME OF LABORATORY GOES HERE**  
Quality Assurance  
Review Form

Review: QC REVIEW PLAN EFFECTIVENESS

Reviewer: D. LEIGHTON, CLB

Month of Review: October  Review Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Daily QC Statistical Assessment Reports have been reviewed and filed in the Monthly QC Binders, Monthly QC reports, QC Logs, Statistical Summaries, Levy-Jennings charts and QC policies have been reviewed. Lab QC was submitted to vendor for Peer Reports.

**Standards:**

1. QC is being performed according to protocol.	<input type="checkbox"/> Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Met
2. QC is being documented in appropriate places.	<input type="checkbox"/> Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Met
3. QC logs are being maintained in a organized manner.	<input type="checkbox"/> Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Met
4. QC review is being performed in a timely manner.	<input type="checkbox"/> Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Met
5. QC Corrective Actions have been documented and reviewed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Met
6. Instruments/Analytes are being Calibrated as required.	<input type="checkbox"/> Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Met
7. Policies and procedures accurately reflect the activities of the lab.	<input type="checkbox"/> Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Met

Conclusion:

Customize this Template for documenting QA Reviews

[Reset](#)

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Laboratory Staff: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Technical Consultant/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SLT\_220 SmartLabTools.com





# (Section-4) Basic QC Statistics Calculators

Smart LabTools

**CALCULATE QC MEAN(S), SD, CV%, QC RANGES** ?

< REPLACE WITH NAME OF LABORATORY >

**PRECISION STUDIES FOR NEW CONTROL LOT#**

DESCRIPTION: GLUCOSE  
 INSTRUMENT: DIMENSION XPAND PLUS  
 METHOD: ENZYMATIC  
 CONTROL: BIORAD CHEMISTRY - NORMAL CONTROL  
 LOT #: 12345..  
 OTHER: EXP. 10/17

I.D.	1-20	I.D.	21-40	I.D.	41-60
1	102	21	97	41	98
2	103	22	95	42	101
3	99	23	104	43	104
4	95	24	101	44	100
5	104	25	105	45	99
6	107	26	100	46	106
7	103	27	96		
8	100	28	104		
9	98	29	103		
10	97	30	99		
11	101	31	107		
12	105	32	101		
13	96	33	104		
14	104	34	99		
15	110	35	103		
16	99	36	107		
17	103	37	99		

QC STATISTICS

<b>N =</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>MEAN =</b>	<b>26.45</b>
<b>1 SD =</b>	<b>1.63</b>
<b>CV % =</b>	<b>6.15</b>
<b>GEO MEAN =</b>	<b>26.41</b>

<b>QUALITY CONTROL LIMITS</b>
<b>1 STANDARD DEVIATION =</b>
<b>2 STANDARD DEVIATIONS =</b>
<b>3 STANDARD DEVIATIONS =</b>
<b>Clear Data</b>

<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
<b>24.83</b>	<b>28.08</b>
<b>23.20</b>	<b>29.71</b>
<b>21.57</b>	<b>31.33</b>
<b>Reset All</b>	

# QC Statistics – Multiple Analytes (8 x 20dp)

Smart LabTools								
PRECISION AND ACCURACY STATISTICAL ASSESSMENT								
< Replace with Name of Laboratory >								
// PARALLEL TESTING NEW LOT OF CONTROLS FOR ABX MICROS 60 //								
Analyte :	WBC	RBC	HGB	HCT	PLT	GRAN %	LYMP %	MID %
QC Material :	HORRIBA	HORRIBA	HORRIBA	HORRIBA	HORRIBA	HORRIBA	HORRIBA	HORRIBA
Lot Number :	MX401L	MX401L	MX401L	MX401L	MX401L	MX401L	MX401L	MX401L
Expiration :	11/05/16	11/05/16	11/05/16	11/05/16	11/05/16	11/05/16	11/05/16	11/05/16
Target Value :	1.90	2.30	6.0	16.1	75	26.5	63.0	10.5
Ranges :	1.5 - 2.3	2.15 - 2.45	5.6 - 6.4	14.1 - 18.1	55 - 95	19.5 - 33.5	55.0 - 71.0	4.5 - 16.5
Run	L-1	L-1	L-1	L-1	L-1	L-1	L-1	L-1
1	2.0	2.31	6.0	16.2	75	26.9	59.1	10.6
2	1.9	2.30	6.1	16.2	75	26.1	60.2	10.2
3	1.8	2.33	6.1	16.2	76	27.2	61.5	10.3
4	2.0	2.29	6.1	16.1	78	27.0	65.1	10.3
5	1.9	2.30	6.0	16.1	77	26.8	60.3	10.3
6	1.9	2.31	6.1	16.1	78	26.8	60.5	11.0
7	2.0	2.31	6.0	16.3	77	27.3	62.5	11.2
8	1.8	2.32	5.9	16.2	73	29.0	62.0	10.9
9	1.9	2.31	6.0	16.2	74	28.9	62.8	11.1
10	2.0	2.30	6.1	16.1	75	27.6	60.7	11.0

<b>N :</b>	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
<b>Mean :</b>	1.92	2.31	6.04	16.17	75.80	27.36	61.47	10.69
<b>1 SD :</b>	0.08	0.01	0.07	0.07	1.69	0.93	1.71	0.39
<b>% CV :</b>	4.11	0.49	1.16	0.42	2.23	3.38	2.79	3.65
<b>Target Value :</b>	1.90	2.30	6.00	16.10	75.00	26.50	63.00	10.50
<b>% Recovery :</b>	101.05	100.35	100.67	100.43	101.07	103.25	97.57	101.81
<b>Clear Form</b>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>
Comments : ACCEPTABLE PRECISION, ACCURACY PER INSERT LIMITS - OK FOR USE								
Analyst : KL			10/4/2016		Approved by : DL			



# QC Statistics

FREE Calculator (SLT\_100)  
Click Anywhere on Image for  
Webpage Download Link

There are two formulas to calculate Standard Deviation. This form was programmed using the 'manual' calculation method, which necessitates clicking the check boxes so calculations 'catch-up'.

Newer forms use the 'computer' formula for immediate SD Calculation, and don't require the check boxes.

See other QC Calculators on the SLT website.

Smart  
LabTools

## Calculate Mean, SD, CV%, Reference Range

?  ?

Document Test System Information

Method / Instrument	Test Description	Units
AU400 CHEMISTRY	GLUCOSE	MG/DL

Other Reagent / Q.C. Product Information

EVALUATING NEW LOT OF QC..

Enter Data

88.00	90.00	88.00	86.00	93.00	
89.00	92.00	87.00	87.00	94.00	
86.00	87.00	86.00	90.00	95.00	
84.00	86.00	84.00	91.00	96.00	
89.00	91.00	89.00	88.00	97.00	

CLICK ALL 3 BOXES ==>>>  <<<= RE-CLICK WITH CHANGES

Calculated Statistics

N =	25	1 SD Range =		to	89.32
Arithmetic Mean =	89.32	2 SD Range =		to	
1 SD =		3 SD Range =		to	
CV% =					

Analyst: \_\_\_\_\_

SLT\_100 Mean SD Calc 30dp  
©2007-2013, SmartLabTools™

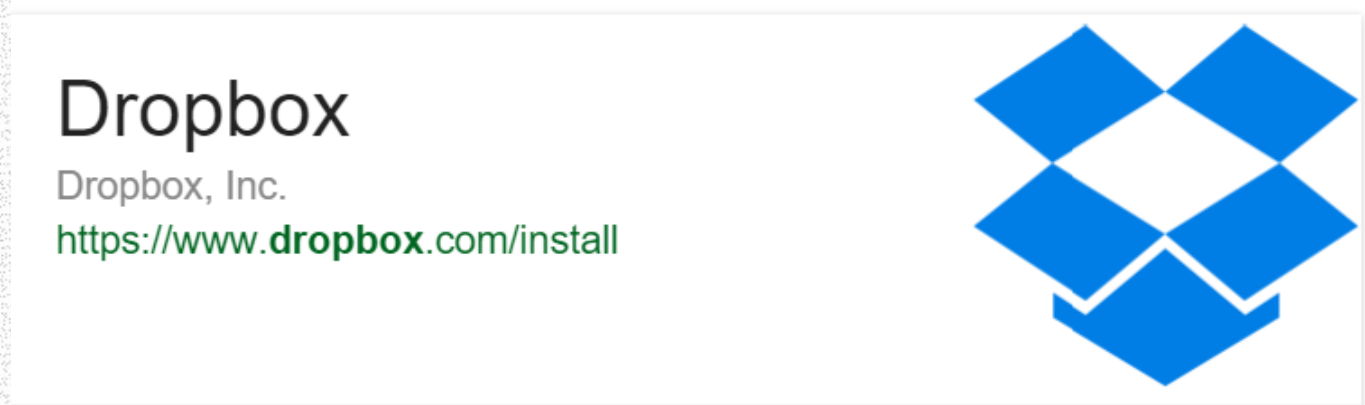
[SmartLabTools.com](http://SmartLabTools.com)

Daniel W. Leighton, MT(ASCP), CLB  
Email: Dan@smartlabtools.com





## (Section-5) Cloud Storage and Sharing



The benefit of saving the electronic PDF files in a web folder is that they may be shared and viewed remotely.

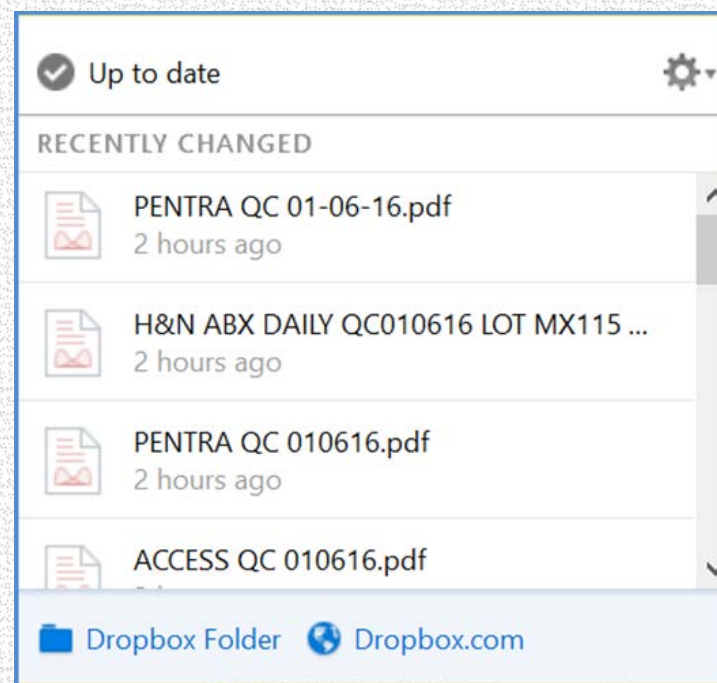
The following illustrates use of Dropbox for QC Files

# Using Dropbox Folders (Web Application)

## In Dropbox Create

- db folder for each Lab
- Subfolders by subject
- Subfolders by analyzer
- Subfolders by year
- Subfolders by month

Save QC Reports (files)  
include date in filename



*QC Activity as viewed from consultants desktop*



# Dropbox Folders with QC Reports (PDF's)

The diagram illustrates the organization of QC reports in Dropbox. It is structured as follows:

Folder Name	Contents
2. FEBRUARY 2015	IPM ABX DAILY QC 2015 IPM ABX DAILY QC 2016 IPM COMPETENCY IPM CONSULTANT NOTES IPM PENTRA DAILY QC 2015 IPM PENTRA DAILY QC 2016 IPM PENTRA QC INFO IPM TOSOH DAILY QC 2015 IPM TOSOH DAILY QC 2016 IPM TOSOH QC INFO IPM_CAL-VER ASSESSMENTS IPM_CORRELATIONS IPM_QA Procedure & Forms ex LAB MEETINGS
12. DECEMBER 2015	IPM ABX-12-01-2015 IPM ABX-12-02-2015 IPM ABX-12-03-2015 IPM ABX-12-04-2015 IPM ABX-12-05-2015 IPM ABX-12-07-2015 IPM ABX-12-08-2015 IPM ABX-12-09-2015 IPM ABX-12-10-2015 IPM ABX-12-14-2015 IPM ABX-12-15-2015 IPM ABX-12-16-2015 IPM ABX-12-17-2015 IPM ABX-12-18-2015 IPM ABX-12-21-2015 IPM ABX-12-22-2015 IPM ABX-12-23-2015 IPM ABX-12-24-2015 IPM ABX-12-28-2015 IPM ABX-12-29-2015 IPM ABX-12-30-2015 IPM ABX-12-31-2015 NEW LOT IPM ABX-12-31-2015

# Dropbox.. QC Activity Reports emailed



## IPM Lab Irvine\_Folder



IPM ABX-08-15-2016.pdf

Added to 8. AUG 2016 by Kathy Monday 8/15/2016



PENTRA QC 08-12-16.pdf

Added to 8. AUG 2016 by Kathy Friday 8/12/2016



IPM\_TOSOH QC 08-12-16.pdf

Added to 8. AUG 2016 by Kathy Friday 8/12/2016



IPM ABX-08-12-2016.pdf

Added to 8. AUG 2016 by Kathy Friday 8/12/2016



IPM ABX-08-11-2016.pdf

Added to 8. AUG 2016 by Kathy Thursday 8/11/2016

7 other events ...



## ACR\_Folder



INTEGRA 400 DAILY QC 08-15-16.pdf

Added to 8. AUG 2016 by Guillermo Monday 8/15/2016



INTEGRA 400 DAILY QC 08-11-16.pdf

Added to 8. AUG 2016 by Guillermo Thursday 8/11/2016



SYSMEX DAILY QC 07-27-16.pdf

Added to 7 SYSMEX D...016 by Guillermo Tuesday 8/9/2016



SYSMEX DAILY QC 07-26-16.pdf

Added to 7 SYSMEX D...016 by Guillermo Tuesday 8/9/2016



SYSMEX DAILY QC 07-25-16.pdf

Added to 7 SYSMEX D...016 by Guillermo Tuesday 8/9/2016

5 other events ...

# FOLLOWING ARE SOME QC RELATED CITATIONS

---

# Be Prepared with an Effective QC Program: One QC Out... can lead to 6 deficiencies

We were scheduled for a [REDACTED] inspection, and I wanted to wait it out before retiring. [REDACTED] surveyor came on [REDACTED] turned out to be not the usual [REDACTED] surveyor. She was not in a good mood; and proceeded to slam through our operations for the past 24 months with a laser... then any single deficiency got bundled with related up-line responsibilities. Sample in point - only one QC point recorded with Estradiol, on a particular day 2 years ago, got a QC citation; that triggered a Personnel Competency citation, and not following QC P&P, and Supervisory Lack of Training citation, and an Incompetent Tech Supv citation, finishing with a Director not Ensuring... citation. That was SIX citations from this ONE observation. Wow. So, SIX legit deficiencies exponentially became 36 citations. Frightful of [REDACTED] a giant Shift in our history.

*Examiners are highly experienced at finding QC deficiencies.. It's best the laboratory find and fix them first.*

*SmartLabTools™ QC Statistical Assessment system can help provide that “additional measure” needed to ensure lab is examining each and every QC result prior to reporting patient results.*

# CMS - QC Citation – Parallel Testing

D5469

**The laboratory's allegation of compliance is not credible and evidence of correction is not acceptable.**

## Finding #1

Although the laboratory's submitted protocol indicates that the stated values of new commercially assayed CBC QC materials were to be verified through parallel testing against QC materials in use, the laboratory provided no documentation indicating that this protocol had been effectuated, no information as to how the results of the parallel testing will be documented, and no information as to whether laboratory staff has been trained on this new protocol.

*Lesson here is that if you say your going to do something in your Policy & Procedure... Examiner's will hold you to it.*

*SLT\_413 was created to meet the parallel testing requirement for Hematology QC.*

# CMS - QC Citation - Corrective Action

D5481

**The laboratory's allegation of compliance is not credible and evidence of correction is not acceptable.**

## Finding #1

The submission references "Ex. I, Tabs 2-6." We located these tabs, but found no documentation in Tabs 2, 5 and 6.

Although the laboratory's submitted protocol requires that QC values be acceptable prior to reporting patient results, the submission states: "██████████ reviewed all quality control (QC) data for PT/INR [Prothombin Time/International Normalized Ratio] for the time period that this lot of Dade Innovin was in use." The laboratory provided no documentation of this review other than stating it was performed. We also found no documentation to indicate that the revised standard operating procedures (SOPS) have been effectuated. That is, we found no documentation of PT/INR QC failure investigations and corrective actions taken based on the revised SOPS.

*Documenting QC failure investigations & corrective actions is an essential part of any laboratory Quality Control program. Forms for documenting QC Corrective Actions & Reviews are provided in the SLT\_QC System.*

# QC Citation – Follow Lab's QC Policy

a. The General Quality Control Policy, under "Control Processing" stated "The technologist performing the assay must check that control results are within acceptable limits before reporting patient's results. If control results are acceptable, proceed to run and report patient samples." Under "Corrective Action if Control Results are Not Acceptable (i.e. exceed +/- 2 SD are rejected by Westgard rules ...)" the policy stated, "Do not report patient results if QC is unacceptable."

b. Quality control results did not meet the laboratory's criteria for acceptability for Total Bilirubin on 9/10/15 when the Day to Day Chart (Levey Jennings Chart) showed that 1 of 2 results (Multiquel Level 3) exceeded 2 standard deviations from the mean.

g. There were no corrective actions documented when quality control results failed to meet the criteria for acceptability, including assessment of patient test results in the unacceptable run and since the last acceptable test run to determine if patient test results had been adversely affected.

***Statistically, 1 in 20 results may exceed 2SD limits for each control***

***The 1-2S Rule can be too restrictive, and should be used as a 'Warning' and not for 'Rejection'***

***At minimum set 2-2S, and 1-3S Rules***



**Daniel W. Leighton, Bioanalyst**  
**[dan@smartlabtools.com](mailto:dan@smartlabtools.com)**