

QA QUIPS

Level D

In an effort to ensure transfusion safety, the Laboratory Quality Assurance Program has mandated the Level D survey. The Level D survey is especially for those facilities that receive, store and transfuse blood components but do not perform transfusion medicine testing.

The survey involves three paper challenges per year. The questions may be short answer or multiple choice.

The Level D survey monitors areas such as receipt, storage and administration of blood components and products, patient and blood component identification, emergency transfusion policies and procedures, and record keeping.

Responses to the paper challenge should be completed by the personnel who routinely perform the task.

Level D responses are evaluated on the basis of clerical accuracy, appropriate documentation, acceptable evaluation and follow-up of situations presented and the use of appropriate process and procedures.

Level D is an educational survey. However, if a facility response indicates practice that may impact patient or staff safety, notification is sent to the laboratory. The laboratory must respond to LQAP with corrective action.



PT Troubleshooting Tips

- Review reports from PT providers carefully. These reports contain useful information beyond pass or fail. They may identify potential problems related to imprecision, systematic error and/or human error.
- Look for trends over time. Are PT samples showing a negative or positive bias? Is there bias at a certain analyte concentration? These events should trigger an interval investigation.
- Review QC records, looking for shifts and trends.
- Check reconstitution, expiration and reconstituted stability on QC reagents, calibrators, stains and solutions.
- Review last calibration of test.
- Review test protocol and procedure.
- Ensure instrumentation/methodology is current with the PT provider.

NEWS FLASH!

The Quality Assurance Committees have reviewed and revised the policies and procedures for laboratory quality. The Program is planning on providing these new documents: Policy Manual and Guidelines for Laboratory Practice on the web. Only limited copies will be printed and will be available upon request. Contact Angela at (306) 787-8239 or awiebe@health.gov.sk.ca to reserve a copy.

WE NEED YOU!

If you are an MLT working in a laboratory, we could use your expertise. The Program needs auditors for both on-site visitations and the paper review of the self inspections. We provide an auditor's manual that contains all answers (and more!) , an honorarium and expenses. If you are a member of the SSMLT, you can apply for CE credits. Think about it!

ghearn@health.gov.sk.ca

**College of Physicians & Surgeons of Saskatchewan—
Laboratory Quality Assurance Program**

Congratulations to Tracy Brown,
Proficiency Testing Consultant, for
completing the Laboratory Quality
Management course through the
University of British Columbia!

Proficiency Testing

It is essential for laboratories to incorporate proficiency testing samples within the routine workload throughout the workday and over every shift. Proficiency testing records can be used as a part of ongoing competence. PT samples must be rotated so that each staff member has a chance to perform such a test.

Inspection Projections

Fall 2009

Five Hills

Sun Country

Cypress

Spring 2010

Kelsey Trail

Prairie North

Fall 2010

Sunrise



We're on the web!

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Summer Solstice Trivia

- 1 Summers are hot not because Earth is closer to the sun, but because the tilt of the Earth's axis lets rays of sunlight hit one hemisphere more directly.
- 2 During the Northern Hemisphere's summer, we're actually *farthest* from the sun, receiving 7 percent less sunlight than the Southern Hemisphere does during its summer.
- 3 The summer solstice—June 20 this year—is the Northern Hemisphere's longest day, with 24 hours of unbroken sunlight north of the Arctic Circle.
- 4 The Tropic of Cancer—the latitude on Earth where the sun is directly overhead at noon on the summer solstice—got its name because when the ancients established it, the sun appeared in the constellation Cancer.
- 5 Oops. Due to subsequent shifting of Earth's axis, the Tropic of Cancer is now misnamed. On the current June solstice, the sun actually appears in the constellation Taurus.
- 6 Galileo was forced to recant his theory that Earth revolves around the sun on the summer solstice of 1633.