



SIQAG

South Island Quality Assurance Group for Biochemistry (SIQAG4B)

Terms of Reference

Membership

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Heather Murray Heather.murray@sclabs.co.nz	Biomedical Scientist Southern Community Laboratories
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Guy Mulligan guy_mulligan@medlabsouth.co.nz	Chemical Pathologist Med Lab South
Gordon Sutton gordon_sutton@medlabsouth.co.nz	Section Head, Biochemistry Med Lab South
Peter Moore (TBC) peter.moore@nmhs.govt.nz	Biochemistry Section Head Med Lab South (NMDHB)
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Jeff Spurdle Jeff_spurdle@medlabsouth.co.nz	Biochemistry Charge Technologist Med Lab South (Timaru)
John Sheard jsheard@westcoastdhb.org.nz	Biochemistry Section Head West Coast District Health Board.
John Moodie john.moodie@cdhb.govt.nz	LIS Co-ordinator Canterbury Health Laboratories
Linda Henderson lhenders@dml.co.nz	QC Officer Biochemistry / Immunology Department
Barbara Dallas Barbara.dallas@huttvalleydhb.org.nz	ARQAG Representative, Auckland Biochemistry Section Head LNIQAG Representative, Wellington

Chairperson

Dr Geoff Smith, Chemical Pathologist, SCL (2010)
Dr Guy Mulligan, Chemical Pathologist, MLS (2011)

Quorum

Chairperson or person deputising plus at least representatives from two other participating laboratories. In cases where consensus recommendations are required these should be obtained through email consultation.

Meetings	One meeting to be held annually with other meetings held ad hoc as required.
Agenda	A request for Agenda items will be circulated to members at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. An agenda will be issued to members by email at least one week prior to the meeting.
Minutes	Minutes of meetings will be circulated to all SIQAG-Biochemistry members, the Laboratory Information Systems Managers and Quality Mangers from Canterbury Health Laboratories (CHL), Southern Community Laboratories and Med Lab South, the Éclair Applications Manager and CHL LABNET partners. In addition minutes will be sent to or made available to those individuals identified as being the contacts for those committees detailed under 'Functional Relationships with Other Committees.'
Scope	The South Island Quality Assurance Group (SIQAG) for Biochemistry will look at the comparability of Biochemistry tests in the Health PAC schedule and any other tests identified by this group. For each test / analyte, the adult, antenatal and paediatric reference intervals will reviewed along with what analysers / methods are used to perform the test , how many decimal places results should be reported too and the use of Logical Observation Identifiers Name and Codes (LOINC) to allow cumulating in Eclair. An annual review of the SIQAG for Biochemistry Terms of Reference should be undertaken to ensure that the purpose and objectives of the group remain current.
Functional Relationship with Other Committees	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Auckland Regional Quality Assurance Group (ARQAG): This is an equivalent group of Chemical Pathologists and Senior Biochemistry staff reviewing comparability in Auckland.2. Lower North Island Quality Assurance Group (LNIQAG): This is an equivalent group of Chemical Pathologists and Senior Biochemistry staff reviewing comparability.3. Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB-QAP Working Practice)
Purpose	To review and ensure the on-going comparability of Biochemistry reference intervals between the South Island laboratory providers sending results into the Éclair Regional Results repository.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To maintain the SIQAG Biochemistry reference interval document which details what tests are deemed comparable, current agreed reference intervals / units and the analysers used to perform these tests at each of the laboratory service providers. This document will be maintained by the incumbent Chairperson and it is the responsibility of all SIQAG Biochemistry members to ensure that it is kept current.2. To be proactive in reviewing the comparability of reference intervals wherever possible with a focus on agreeing reference intervals nationally if possible.3. To run comparative studies using patient samples to confirm comparability and in line with the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines 'Verification of comparability of patient results within one health care system; approved guideline.'4. To promote the use of LOINC codes locally for cumulating results in Éclair.5. To facilitate discussion with other relevant external groups as appropriate with a view to promoting the use of agreed reference intervals.
Request for Change Agreement	It has been agreed with Laboratory Information System teams from Canterbury Health Laboratories, Southern Community Laboratories, Med Lab South and the Eclair administration team that;

- The SIQAG Biochemistry Group needs to provide an indication of when the agreed change requires implementation.
- LIS / Eclair Teams will endeavour to effect the change in the timescale recommended by the SIQAG Biochemistry group. This will be dependant on the complexity of the work required, the resources available within each Team and whether there will be involvement required from the respective LIS suppliers.