LGC CLINICAL DIAGNOSTICS

Customer Testimonial

ORGANISATION / HEALTH SYSTEM: PathCare Laboratories, South Africa.

ABOUT PATHCARE: PathCare comprises of 104 laboratories in total; one core lab and nine regional laboratories.

INSTRUMENTS: 196 instruments in total comprising of 69 x Alinity i, 77 x Alinity c, 22 x ARCHITECT i1000, 2 x ARCHITECT i2000, 25 x ARCHITECT c4000 and 1 x ARCHITECT c8000. The PathCare core laboratory in Cape Town has four Alinity c and six Alinity i instruments.

NUMBER OF TESTS: Daily average at main lab on Abbott platform: 7,856 for chemistry and 3,525 for endocrinology.

PRODUCTS IN USE: Multichem® IA Plus, Multichem S Plus, Multichem U, Multichem P, Multichem A1c, Multichem AE, Multichem WBT; IAMQC® Peer for QC data management.

TESTIMONIAL PROVIDED BY: Yolanda Veerajoo, PathCare National QA Coordinator: Quality Assurance Division. Yolanda is a qualified Medical Technologist with a Bachelor of Technology: Clinical Pathology and has more than 10 years of experience in the field.

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Yolanda Veerajoo
QA Coordinator: Quality Assurance Division

What are the most important points for you in working with Technopath?

The IAMQC Peer website has had the most important impact on the lab. We were able to design the QC module based on the automated IAMQC reports. Our monthly review procedure using the IAMQC Bias Report enables to work in a much leaner way, which is efficient and time saving.

Tell us about how you run up new quality controls?

When we start with a new lot of QC, we run the old lot and new lot in parallel for 3 days. This is to ensure that biases on the new lot are not system related but rather QC related. Initially, we consider the peer mean as a target value until we have at least 20 QC data points per level and thereafter switch to our running mean.

What rules do you follow in running quality controls?

We follow Westgard Rules, including warning rules and violation alerts. In terms of specification for analytical goals, we refer to EFLM, RCPA, Westgard and CLIA. QC management is done via our middleware, AlinIQ AMS or Meditech.

What advantages have you seen with the Technopath barcoded QC?

Smaller QC vials, which can be loaded onto the instrument is new for us and is definitely welcomed by the laboratory staff. We find that running the QC directly from the vial saves us time as we no longer need to aliquot the product. We have also noted a subsequent reduction in errors, where previously QC levels could have been swapped around.

Is there anything you would highlight as uniquely valuable in the Technopath system?

The automated Reagent Lot Report in IAMQC is a unique competitive feature. If we observe shifts, we refer to the Reagent Lot Report to assess the mean. We then assess if the shift it clinically acceptable by comparing it to the acceptable %Bias. The IAMQC peer reports have proven to be very useful and have become a vital component of our QC review procedures.