



Roll Out of EQAS for Blood Banks in India

Joy Mammen

CMCEQAS

Department of Transfusion Medicine

Christian Medical College Vellore



Scope

- What is EQA?
- Why it is important to participate?
- What is the plan from the national program perspective?

- Conflict of Interest:
- Program Coordinator
- CMCEQAS www.cmceqas.org



Definition

External Quality Assessment (EQA) or Proficiency Testing (PT)

“Evaluation of participant performance against pre-established criteria by means of inter laboratory comparisons”

** Source: ISO 17043*



Inter laboratory Comparisons

Participation

- ILC by PT Provider- PT program /EQA program

Compliant to ISO 17043

Alternative approaches in the absence of EQAP

- Utilize appropriate materials to determine the acceptability of test results
 - Certified reference material testing
 - Sample previously examined
 - Split sample testing or referee sample testing: HIV Serology program by NACO

Complementary to Internal Quality Control



WHO 2004

Participation in EQA involves testing sets of samples of known, but undisclosed, content that are sent to participating centres by the EQA scheme. Each participating laboratory receives an identical set of samples which should be processed in the same way as routine clinical samples to ensure that its performance in EQA accurately reflects its usual performance. Following the collation and analysis of results, each centre receives its own results, together with the anonymized results for all other participating centres, which enables it to compare its performance with other centres.

External

Quality Assessment

of Transfusion

Laboratory

Practice

**Guidelines on
Establishing an
EQA Scheme in
Blood Group Serology**



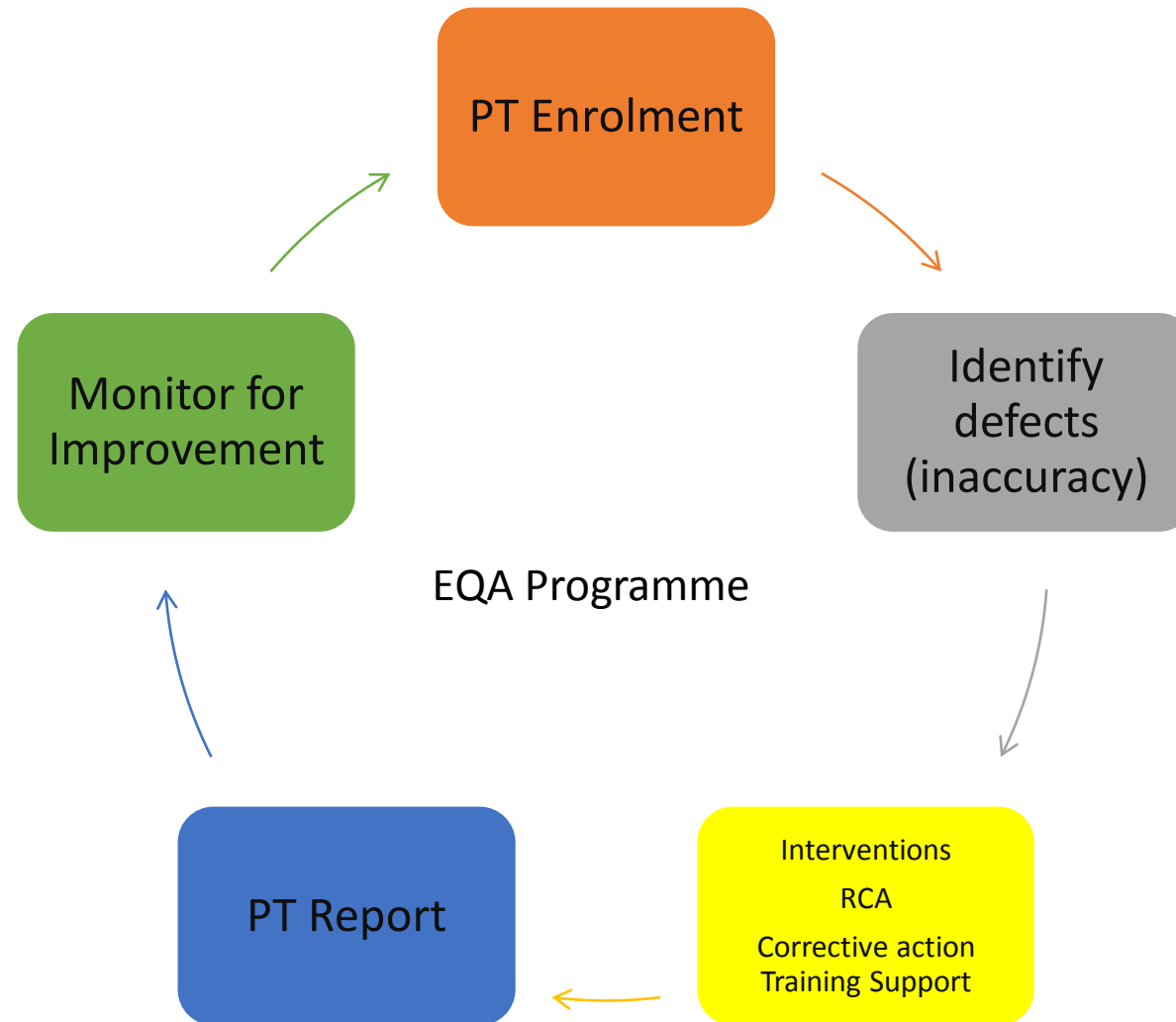


Importance of EQA

- Evaluation of the performance of specific tests and monitoring lab's continuing performance: **Accuracy**
- **Identification of problems** and initiation of actions for improvement
- **Education** of participating laboratories based on the outcomes of such comparisons
- Provision of additional **confidence to customers**
- **Accreditation** requirement
- Provide **Evidence**: influence policy decisions



Quality Improvement Cycle





Roll out

- 12% of Blood Banks participate in EQAS for Immunohaematology
- 11% of Blood Banks participate in EQAS for TTI Testing
- At least 3 programs have been around for some years now
 - CMCEQAS, Christian Medical College, Vellore (2006)
 - SDM Hospital Blood Bank, Jaipur (2009)
 - IRCS Blood Bank, Mumbai
- NACO/NBTC seeks to offer the programs for all its associated blood banks
- All program continue to be open for all blood banks and testing facilities in the country



Scope

- Educational
- Non-punitive
- Quality Improvement
- Better patient care

- Basic program
 - Immunohaematology – Blood Group/Type, DAT, IAT, Compatibility testing
 - Transfusion Transmissible Infection testing (HIV, HBV, HCV, Syphilis, Malaria)
 - Haematology (haemoglobin)



Roll out of EQAS for NACO Supported Blood Banks

- Concept proposed to NACO – 2014
- Refined and streamlined proposal – 2015
- Harmonization - 2016



Proposed program

- Annual cycle
- 3 Surveys per year
- At least 4 challenges in each
- Evaluation
- Reporting

- Beyond EQA
 - Educational Program
 - Supplements
 - Webinars



Next steps – 2016-17

- Sensitisation
 - Registration
 - Begin the program
-
- Hope to come back to this audience with data