



# Chemistry QC

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# Objectives

- Refer to QC SOPs in the Chemistry Department at ATL VAMC
- Review QC procedures/correct documentation for Chemistry “New Shipments and New Lot Numbers”
- Review proper frequency of Chemistry QC
- Review QC Troubleshooting

# VHA MISSION

Strategic Plan 2013-2018:

“Honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being.”

# VHA Principles

VHA Strategic Plan 2013-2018:

VHA Principle:

**“CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVING”**...everyday  
service to our veterans

# Guidance

- CLIA
- CAP
- VAMC mandates; Chief of Pathology may add additional procedures as warranted (Pathology holds the lab CLIA certificates)

# SOPs

Overarching SOPs:

**QUALITY CONTROL and QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

## **Chemistry QM/QC Program**

(contains definitions, frequency of QC/PMs, and expected results)

LAB GEN (contains specific information on corrective actions – occurrence reporting, **Check Point** use, and other general laboratory)

# CHANGE

**“The Only Thing That Is Constant Is Change -”**  
— Heraclitus (Greek philosopher, 500 B.C.)



***NEW CAP Individualized QC PLAN (IQCP)***  
requirements ... refer to CAP letter. **BLOOD**  
**GASES...**

# New shipments – What to do?

1. Sign pack slip for shipment AFTER checking to be sure it is for Chemistry; place in designated location
2. CHECK THE STORAGE TEMPERATURE! Frozen or refrigerated?
3. Reminders and stickers placed on kits after new lot/ new shipment QC has been performed



# Chemistry

**“In use” date** must be documented on the item!

# Linearity / CAL-ver

6 month Calibration Verification (linearities)  
on quantitative systems:

- How? On which analytes?

# CAP SURVEYS

- Reminder: Never share results.
- Always treat the survey as a patient specimen
- Ensure that you follow the CAP INSTRUCTION SHEET
- Always sign the last page of the survey sheet; include the QC for that day; if linearity, include the last calibration sheet

# A word about LJ charts...

- If you are having trouble with your QC: Have you checked the LJ? Shift? Trend?
- How about instrument maintenance? Recently performed? Correctly? Or due? Or OVERDUE?
- Please look thru each INSTRUMENT tab to check for items that may be due or FLAGGED. Do not wait~ Could be an EMERGENCY situation or low staffing that will prevent you from performing quality items.

# Examples of Occurrences

- **Shift** on LJ: “Run calibrator loaded” – WHY?
- Manual items (BOH): Lot placed in use, but **NO QC DOCUMENTED** in VISTA!
- Manual Temp charts / Daily-weekly QC charts with blanks – **STORAGE AREA**
- Forgot to log into **CHECKPOINT**

# Open Discussion

- Any QC Questions?
- QC items that we did not mention?

\*Report all concerns, suggestions, occurrences to the chemistry supervisor.

**EVERYONE is responsible for QC! Look at each item with an INSPECTOR's eye...**



Thank you

Post-test