

To the users of Control Materials

Winterswijk, 14 May 2024

Dear Participant,

In 2018 we introduced the Internal Quality Control System, comprising control materials with concentrations at two levels, and a dedicated website for data management and value assignment. These control materials were developed as a collaboration between ERNDiM and MCA Laboratory.

The control materials have proven to be very successful with approximately 12,000 vials shipped to ERNDiM participants every year. The website, however, is less well used. We would like to use this email to draw your attention to this.

Crowd value assignment

The facilities on the website serve not only internal quality control management, but also play a crucial role in assigning values to the control materials. Presently, the certificate in the package insert shows values measured by 1 or 2 peer laboratories representing an approximation of the true value. We encourage users to voluntarily submit their results, as increased participation enhances the reliability of the running mean, establishing it as the most accurate estimate of the assigned value - a concept akin to crowdfunding: crowd value assignment.

We aim to encourage your utilisation of the ERNDiM-MCA Internal Quality Control System. Even if not employed for internal quality control management, we urge you to consider contributing at least one result to enhance the overall reliability of the assigned values.

Change in calculations of the “Mean all Labs”

For the participants who have already used the Internal Quality Control System, we have observed varying levels of participation, with some laboratories submitting numerous results and others only a few. Consequently, the calculated "Mean All Labs" has been disproportionately influenced by labs with higher submission rates.

Starting from tomorrow (15th May 2024) “Mean All Labs” will be determined as the Mean of the means of the individual labs, with exclusion of the outliers (>3s). This adjustment ensures that the mean of the laboratory with numerous submissions holds the same weight as the mean of the laboratory that only submitted a few results.

Please find further guidance on using the ERNDiM-MCA Internal Quality Control System at www.erndimqa.nl. Click at General Information and click at Use website. There you will find (below Internal Quality Control):

1. Instructions website ERNDiM Internal Quality Control
2. Explanation Reports Internal Control System

Best regards,

The Working Group ERNDiM-MCA Internal Control System

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