

PROCEDURE FOR: Decentralized Lab Testing

- POLICY:
1. Decentralized lab quality control activities are performed at a minimum according to the manufacturer's recommendations/institutional guidelines.
  2. Instrument quality control checks are performed on each day of patient use.
  3. Non-instrument quality control is performed once a week or as otherwise indicated on at least one opened container of testing material.
  4. Quality control for instrument and non-instrument tests is also performed and documented for the following reasons:
    - a. The integrity of the testing product/control solution is questionable (ex. unusual color of a urine dipstick test-strip).
    - b. A questionable patient result is obtained.
    - c. The integrity of the instrument has been compromised (ex. instrument dropped, left on heater, etc.).
    - d. A non-instrument container is found opened. If quality control passes, re-cap container and continue to use. If quality control fails, document results and discard the container.
  5. When quality control fails, troubleshooting is performed according to Quality Control Decision Tree in the Decentralized Lab testing Procedure Manual.
  6. Quality control checks are performed by Nurses and other qualified personnel.
  7. All containers of decentralized lab testing materials are dated when opened.
  8. Containers of testing products and quality control solutions must be discarded when they have reached their expiration date.
  9. All quality control checks are documented and signed by the individual performing the checks on the Decentralized Lab Quality Control Log or recorded and stored by the instrument.
  10. All persons performing patient testing must know how to perform and document QC tests.
  11. The Nursing Manager or designee reviews and signs the Quality Control Logs at least once a month.

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12. Patient logs are maintained for instrument tests.

EQUIPMENT: Decentralized lab testing products, control solutions and quality control logs.

DESIRED

- OUTCOMES:
1. Nursing staff performs quality control on instruments/ products used for bedside testing according to the procedure.
  2. Nursing staff takes appropriate action when instruments/ products do not pass quality control.

PROCEDURE:

ACTION

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Refer to the Decentralized Lab Testing Procedure manual for steps in performing quality control.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee  
Department of Laboratory Medicine

EFFECTIVE

DATE: 1/94

REVISION

DATES: 11/97, 11/99, 1/03, 10/05

REVIEWED

DATES: 3/09