

LABQUALITY

Labquality EQA Schemes for Microbiology: Scoring principles

Scoring policy

- 1) Scoring is implemented for a sample/finding when 60% or more of the participants report the expected result.
- 2) If less than 60% of the participants report an expected result the sample/finding might after consideration be scored if
 - the finding is considered as such that, taking into consideration the performance level of the laboratories, it should be identified or reported correctly (e.g. most common pathogens) and/or
 - other reasons presented by the scheme expert
- 3) If there is a reason to suspect, and/or has been shown any quality issues (e.g. too scarce growth) or other challenging issues concerning the sample lot, the results will not be scored even if 60% of the participants would have reported the expected result.

Samples sent for educational and training purposes will not be scored.

Definition of expected results

The expected result is defined by:

- data supplied by the sample material manufacturer
- data obtained in the pre-testing of the sample material
- results reported by participants of the actual round (consensus)
- the scheme experts

Scoring reports

The principles regarding the scoring scale have been defined for all schemes and are presented in the round-specific reports. Exceptions in the scoring is clearly indicated in the report letter.

A client-specific scoring table will be included in the result reporting for each round.

Both individual tests results and clinical interpretations may be scored. The final scores have been converted to percent form and a comparison between success rates of the participating clients is carried out by using these values.

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