The Business Case for Establishing a National EQA Programme

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Is PROFICIENCY TESTING NECESSARY?
Recap: Summary of Proficiency Testing
What is the Business Case for Establishing a National PT/ EQA Programme

It is important to determine the benefits of a proposed project and communicate the benefits to all stakeholders.
Key Components of a Business Proposal

• The need for a product or service
• The feasibility of providing the product or service
  • The cost
  • Availability of resources & inputs
  • Technical competences
• Funding to establish the business
• Demonstrated value of the business
The Business Case for PT / EQA: The Need

- PT / EQA is key to any QMS
- Tool for self evaluation
  - Determine competence of the system
  - Determine the performance of kits and methods
  - Benchmarking
  - Provide key information to decision makers
- Requirement of the standard
  - ISO 15189:2012 Clause 5.6
- Indication of the quality of testing service provided
  - Laboratory’s clients
The Business Case for PT / EQA:

What do you need to get started?

• Laboratory – work-space
• Source of PT /EQA panels
• Panel transportation & distribution network
• Funding
• Personnel
• Data management system
The Business Case for PT / EQA:

• Critical to success of the project
• Source of funding must identified
  • Long-term Cost sharing system for sustainability
• Take into account
  • Financial costs
  • Economic costs
  • True full cost of the programme
True (Full) Cost

Financial Costs

- Actual payments made to meet the costs
  - Salaries
  - Procurement of supplies and commodities

Economic Costs

- Also known as hidden costs NO actual payments made however product or service is provided
  - Cost of office space
  - Salaries of MoH paid personnel
The Business Case for PT / EQA:

• Local programme
  • Similar panel characterization as patient samples
  • Quicker TAT
  • Remedial action for poor performers
• Lower cost per participants
• Local capacity building
• Improved appreciation QS and PT/EQA specifically
• National Pride
The Benefits to the country

• PT EQA is readily available at a reasonable cost

• Improved awareness of Quality Systems as & the value and importance of PT/EQA

• Tool for monitoring the quality of testing
  • Laboratory level
  • National level

• Ability to identify challenges of gaps in the system

• Assess the quality of various instruments and methods over time
Key Considerations

- Buy-in from all stakeholders
  - MoH, participants, regulatory authorities,
- Funding to support the pilot and roll out
- Implement a sustainability model
  - Ensure long term sustainability of the programme
- Sample transportation and distribution network
- Data management system
- Scaled approach to implementation
- Root cause and remedial action for poor performers
Remedial Action

• Identify poor performers
• Develop remedial action plan
  • Inform participants of the plan
• Carry out remedial action
  • Continued follow up
The Ultimate value to the patient

• PT/EQA – tool for monitoring the quality of testing
  • Accurate reliable test results guide care
  • Efficient use of the health system
  • Improved health outcomes
Thank You