Laboratory Quality Management Systems Stepwise Improvement Process towards Accreditation (LQMS-SIP): Supporting the Delivery of Health and Social Care

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The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) has the remit for promoting efficiency and competitiveness in the production of goods and services through standardization and quality. CROSQ leads the development of a Quality Infrastructure (QI) that is essential to production and trade, and to provide assurance that the product or service meets agreed specifications to safeguard consumer health and safety and preservation of the natural environment.
NATIONAL QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- COMFORMITY ASSESSMENT
- CERTIFICATION
- TESTING
- INSPECTION
- ACCREDITATION
- METROLOGY
- STANDARDISATION
LQMS-SIP- Supporting the Delivery of Health and Social Care

• Health and social care seeks to provide a competent service to doctors, patients, families, the public and regulators. The primary purpose of health and social care accreditation is to ensure that service-users receive a consistent high level of care.

• Medical laboratory services play a pivotal role in ensuring that patients receive accurate test results, best treatment and care.
What is the LQMS-SIP?

- The LQMS-SIP is supported by the United States Government President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Caribbean Regional Office
- CROSQ as the LQMS-SIP Secretariat implements, coordinates and manages the LQMS-SIP
What is the LQMS-SIP?

LQMS-SIP is an framework to support Caribbean countries in their efforts to strengthen national laboratory services through a stepwise quality improvement process towards fulfillment of ISO 15189: 2012 requirements (Medical Laboratories – Requirements for Quality and Competence)
What is the LQMS-SIP?

- LQMS-SIP will recognize laboratories in the process of quality improvement, support them through assessments, provide technical assistance, monitor and reward progress towards meeting internationally accepted standards.
- LQMS-SIP conducts independent assessments of medical laboratories to determine competence, impartiality and consistency.
Benefits of the LQMS-SIP

Under the LQMS-SIP, medical laboratories can work towards accreditation against the global standard ISO 15189 in a stepwise manner. LQMS-SIP allows medical laboratories to demonstrate their technical competence.
LQMS-SIP Summary

Tier 1
LICENSURE

Tier 2
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT MILESTONE

Tier 3
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT MILESTONE

Voluntary Accreditation to ISO 15189: 2012

Laboratory Quality Systems Training Assessment and Recognition

AFENET
PEPFAR
CARICOM REGIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDS & QUALITY
What is the LQMS-SIP Checklist?

- A simple efficient tool based on ISO 15189: 2012 that can be used to evaluate QMS
- Checklist Requirements separated into 3 distinct tiers
- ISO granted copyright permission to CROSQ to use the ISO 15189: 2012 in the LQMS-SIP Checklist
LQMS-SIP Pilot Study

- Critically examined how the LQMS-SIP worked on the ground, tested integrity and feasibility and refined methods/procedures
- Medical laboratories (private, public, licensed, non-licensed) participated
- Checklist well received by laboratory staff as an easy to use simple tool for auditing laboratories
LQMS-SIP Pilot Study

• Generated an increased awareness of the importance of QMS and the need to adopt international standards
• Policy makers in CARICOM countries were sensitized to the benefits of improving QMS
• Data was gathered which would allow for the improvement of the LQMS-SIP