



IFCC WG Harmonisation of Interpretive Commenting EQA (WG-ICQA)

Survey: to address the harmonisation of reporting of protein electrophoresis and serum free light chains, and quantification of small monoclonal proteins.

To: Presidents and/or National Representatives of IFCC National Societies

Date: 24 January, 2017

Dear Colleagues

We write on behalf of a subgroup of the IFCC Working Group for Harmonisation of Interpretative Commenting EQA. In the overall interest of improved patient safety and to promote alignment with clinical guideline practices, our subgroup was formed to focus in particular on harmonising the laboratory investigation and reporting of protein electrophoresis and serum free light chains, as well as the quantitation of small monoclonal proteins. Previous surveys in several countries have variously indicated a lack of harmonisation in all related testing phases.

We have decided to commence our project with an international baseline survey to inform our Working Group of current clinical laboratory practices on a global basis, including reporting and interpretative commenting. The IFCC will notify you of the survey link once the survey has been uploaded onto the website. We should be very grateful if you would distribute this preliminary communication through the most appropriate channels in your Society to ensure an appropriate national distribution. Our goal is to invite the participation of all laboratories enrolled in a national M-protein/serum free light chain EQA program, so your national EQA/PT officer would likely have the relevant contact information for each clinical laboratory.

All responses will remain anonymous and confidential. Following receipt and analysis of the completed surveys, we will produce a position paper with recommended harmonised practices. We will then invite stakeholder input and comment on those proposals, using a consensus-driven approach to refine the final recommendations.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in this endeavour.

Sincerely

Jill Tate (*Chair*), Maria Stella Graziani, Maria Alice Willrich & Michael Moss