

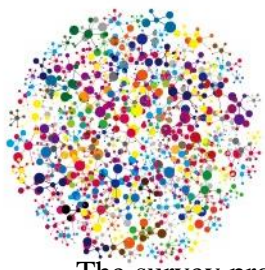
Progress of International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua) accreditation of Laboratory Medicine Foundation (LMF) program

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The purpose of accreditation program of Laboratory Medicine Foundation of Korea is to provide a quality assurance program to clinical laboratories to maintain high quality test performance to ensure accurate and reliable test results, which in turn minimizes unnecessary treatment, unforeseen adverse effects, treatment failure, delay in diagnosis, and additional tests. This program would benefit both the patient and medical staff as well as the economics of the society.

As there has been a growing interest in the recognition of national accreditation of laboratory medicine and in preparing for the global use of our standard, the LMF decided to get accredited by the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua). Previously, the Korean Institute for Healthcare Accreditation, an exclusive accreditation body that performs the accreditation program, which is designated and entrusted by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, has been accredited by ISQua and was the only and first Korean organization to receive it. The ISQua is the only accreditation body which 'accredits the accreditors' globally and provides three types of international accreditation programs (IAP) that include standards accreditation, organizational accreditation, and surveyor training programme accreditation. The LMF of Korea was established in 2010 after an approval of the Ministry of Health and Welfare followed by the issuance of registry by the Court of Law upon the purpose of providing a quality assurance program to clinical laboratories to maintain high quality test performance to ensure accurate and reliable test results. The aim of the standards provided by the Laboratory Medicine Foundation of Korea is to contribute to the improvement of the public health by making accurate and standardized test results in those certified laboratories, in addition to setting a level of acceptable performance & facilitating quality improvement in clinical laboratories for certification. The certification, especially the comprehensive verification & referral medical laboratory fields, is a prerequisite for medical reimbursement for the laboratory tests in Korea. The scope of the standards spans local and national clinical laboratories, primary to tertiary hospital laboratories, referral laboratories and laboratories of the non-profit organizations. The inspection service is essential to improve the quality of the laboratory services as well as to ensure safety of the patients and employees, and thus, it will need to be developed and expanded to smaller laboratories, strengthening the public's confidence in the diagnostic health care. The "Laboratory Management" requirements are mandatory for all laboratories who requested inspection, and field among the 13 fields, including laboratory management, diagnostic hematology, clinical chemistry, clinical microbiology, transfusion medicine, diagnostic immunology, flow cytometry, histocompatibility testing, cytogenetics, molecular diagnostic testing, comprehensive verification, referral medical laboratory, point-of-care testing, the test being carried out at the time of inspection must have the corresponding field inspected. In preparation of ISQua accreditation, the LMF standard and official documents including the accreditation program guidelines, standard development guidelines, referenced regulations and rules were translated into English under the supervision of the standard development committee. After submitting the self-assessment test, standard and relevant evidence documents, the appointed surveyors thoroughly review the submitted documents. Each principle is assigned with ratings or scores, and after being reviewed by the validation panel, the board decides whether the organization will receive accreditation or not.



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The survey process of 2017 is ongoing and the ISQua survey for the LMF of Korea will take place in September.