

What is the VITAL-EQA Program?

The maintenance of high quality laboratories measuring biochemical indicators is essential, because the results generated are used to direct government policy about supplementation, food fortification, and other nutritional interventions. As part of the global effort to strengthen the capacity of nutrition laboratories, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with Wageningen University in the Netherlands, established the VITAL-EQA program.

The VITAL-EQA program is a standardization program designed to provide laboratories measuring nutritional markers in serum with an independent assessment of their analytical performance. The program assists laboratories in monitoring the degree of variability and bias in their assays. Information received from the program can then be used to:

- Eliminate bias or precision problems in the assay system, and
- Confirm the quality of analysis and increase the confidence level of the laboratory.

Participation in VITAL-EQA is voluntary and free of charge. Results are not used for accreditation or certification.

How do I enroll in the VITAL-EQA program?

If you are interested in the VITAL-EQA program, send the following information to [vitalaqaprogram@cdc.gov](mailto:vitaleqaprogram@cdc.gov)

1. Name: _____
2. Title: _____
3. Institution: _____
4. Mailing address: _____

5. E-mail address: _____
6. Phone and Fax numbers: _____

7. Laboratory methods used for measuring nutrition markers in serum, including B-vitamins, CRP, iron, and vitamin A:

When are the samples shipped to participating laboratories?

Two shipments of serum samples are sent per year (May and September). Each shipment includes 9 serum samples to be run in duplicate over a period of 3 consecutive days.

Participating laboratories must be able to receive samples sent on dry ice, retrieve them from customs at the airport, and be responsible for costs associated with customs, if any. Laboratories must also commit to complete sample analyses and provide results within a specified timeline (about 6 weeks).

VITAL-EQA PROGRAM EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR NUTRITIONAL MARKERS

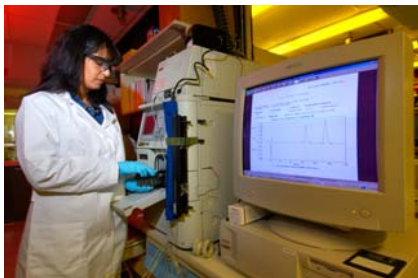
The Global Micronutrient Laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention plays an active role in the CDC-wide IMMPaCt program (International Micronutrient Malnutrition Prevention and Control Team). Through IMMPaCt, CDC contributes its skills and resources to the global effort to eliminate micronutrient malnutrition. The VITAL-EQA program helps laboratories maintain and improve the quality of their measurements for biochemical indicators for B-vitamins, CRP, iron, and vitamin A.



International Activities of the Global Micronutrient Laboratory Program

The aim of CDC's Global Micronutrient Laboratory Program is to apply state-of-the-art laboratory science to eliminate micronutrient malnutrition worldwide. The goals of this program are as follows:

- Build laboratory capacity through technical support, training, and technology transfer for epidemiologic studies, health surveys, and evaluations of nutrition interventions.
- Support the development of low-technology methods and field-friendly technologies for assessing nutritional status.
- Develop reference methods and materials as an accuracy base.
- Provide external quality assurance programs for nutritional indicators.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

4770 Buford Highway, NE

Mailstop F-55

Atlanta, GA 30341



VITAL-EQA PROGRAM EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR NUTRITIONAL MARKERS

