



Accreditation of the Parasitology-Mycolology Laboratory of the HKM National Hospital and University Center of Cotonou at BEBIN

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Short Communication

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) defines accreditation as a procedure by which an authoritative body provides formal recognition that an organization is competent to perform specific tasks. Compliance with the requirements of this international standard ISO 15189 version 2012 by a medical biology laboratory means that the laboratory meets not only the requirements relating to technical skills but also the requirements relating to the management system, necessary to permanently provide valid technical results.

The Parasitology-Mycolology Laboratory of the Hubert Koutoukou Maga National Hospital and University Center (CNHU-HKM) in Cotonou has just received notification of its accreditation for the two scopes of microscopic diagnosis of malaria and serological diagnosis of toxoplasmosis, by the System West African Accreditation (SOAC) on January 11th, 2011.

The major steps covered over the past two years by the Parasitology – Mycology Laboratory of the CNHU-HKM with the support of the administrative authorities are:

- The definition of the vision of the laboratory, its mission and its objectives
- The declination of the commitment and the code of ethics of the staff,
- Appointment of the quality unit and working sub-committees.
- The contracting of consultants accompanying the laboratory accreditation process,
- The development of four manuals

- Quality Manual

-Sampling Manual common to all CNHU-HKM laboratories

-Customer Manual

-Biosafety Manual

- The development of 112 Standard Operating Procedures
- 250 Records

During this process, the laboratory was subjected to the organization of internal audits accompanied by problem solving plans. These plans were implemented at a rate of over 90% on schedule. The management review, which is a crucible for analyzing the entire quality management system with the implementation of a continuous improvement plan on the input and output elements, has been carried out.

Finally, the blank accreditation audit accompanied by the correction of the discrepancies noted, preceded the programming and execution of the final accreditation audit.

At the end of this accreditation audit, the closing report noted 10 minor discrepancies and one major discrepancy, discrepancies that the laboratory had to correct within the time limit of 45 days.

In addition, the gap consisting in the non-training of biotechnicians has been removed and

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all the biotechnicians of the Parasitology-Mycolology Laboratory are trained on the ISO 15189 version 2012 standard with an update on the recent ISO standard. 15189 2022 release.

It is important to emphasize that the West African Accreditation System (SOAC) is an offshoot of the West African Economic Union

(UEMOA) which provides it with financial support to enable it to oversee the Union bodies responsible for verifying compliance of company products and services. Accreditation builds trust through competence.