**Abbreviations**

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| **Abbreviations** | **Full name** |
| APS | Analytical performance specification |
| Ba | Bias |
| BIVAC | Biological Variation Data Critical Appraisal Checklist |
| BMI | Body mass index  |
| BV | Biological variation |
| CLSI | Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute |
| CrI | Credible interval |
| CVA | Analytical variation |
| CVG | Between-subject biological variation |
| CVI | Within-subject biological variation |
| CVP(i) | Within-participant CVI |
| dCVP(i) | Distribution of the CVP(i) |
| dCVP(i)\_20 | 20th percentile for dCVP(i) |
| dCVP(i)\_50 | 50th percentile for dCVP(i) |
| dCVP(i)\_80 | 80th percentile for dCVP(i) |
| EFLM | European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine |
| EQA | External Quality Assessment |
| FCM | Flow cytometry |
| FS-FCM | Full spectrum flow cytometry |
| HBr | Harris-Brown ratio |
| II | Index of individuality |
| N | Number |
| NCCL | National Centre for Clinical Laboratories, China |
| NHSP | Number of samples required to estimate homeostatic set point |
| NK | Natural killer |
| PBMC | Peripheral blood mononuclear cell |
| prRI | Personalized reference interval |
| PT | Proficiency testing |
| RCV | Reference change value |
| SD | Standard deviation |
| Tc | Cytotoxic T cell |
| TCM | Central memory T cell |
| TEa | Allowable total error |
| TEM | Effector memory T cell |
| TEMRA | Effector memory T cell re-expressing CD45RA |
| Th | T helper cell  |
| Treg | Regulatory T cell |
| μCVP(i) | Mean CVP(i)  |