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# The new RiliBAEK- Remarks by the “Referenzinstitut für Bioanalytik” (RfB)

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With the latest version of the “Rili-BAEK” guideline, an important objective has been achieved, if we consider that it now provides comprehensive regulation of the entire field of quality control in medical laboratories.

From the perspective of an organiser of external quality assurance, we think that the following aspects also deserve mentioning: The data collected in external quality controls not only provide immeasurable information about the current state of analytic technology. If one compares today’s external quality assurance results with those of 20 years ago, one discovers that analytical technology has made significant progress. External quality control has surely played an important role in this, and especially along with the concept of reference method values, has considerably improved the accuracy of analytical results.

In several surveys of its participants with respect to internal quality control, the RfB has for a long time accompanied the process of deriving adequate limits for quantitative laboratory analyses, and validated these limits prior to their use, based on old external quality assurance data. With the current practical limits, the system has gained overall acceptance and should not present any major problems for any laboratory.

The current guideline now for the first time also governs the area of quantitative classifications with respect to external quality control. Through the external quality assurance studies now also conducted in this field, we now anticipate an improvement in analytics that had not yet attained the desired standards in certain areas.

The currently available English-language edition of the Rili-BAEK guideline is now enabling interested parties from the non-German speaking countries and the RfB’s international cooperation partners to gain insights in the German quality assurance system.

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