

EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT IN LABORATORY SAFETY AREA (PNAEQ-1S SEGURANÇA LABORATORIAL 2023)

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Introduction

The National External Quality Assessment Program (PNAEQ) provides tools for carrying out external quality assessment in Laboratory Safety area. These tools allow the identification of occurrences and/or critical points in the operation, installations or equipment, that could have impact on the safety of patients and workers, beyond prioritize the necessary improvement actions.

Objective

Presentation of the methodology implemented in PNAEQ in 2023, for the External Quality Assessment (EQA) in Laboratory Safety area.

Description

For 2023 PNAEQ catalogue includes a scheme of External Quality Assessment, named *PNAEQ-1S Segurança Laboratorial*, with 3 exercises:

1. Monitoring Indicators: The participants collect data to a response form, every six months, from safety indicators previously defined by the PNAEQ, related to: accidents/incidents with patients; accidents/incidents with staff; occurrences with equipment; prevention exercises and laboratory Bioprotection. In the end of each semester, the participants send the response form to PNAEQ, which analyse all data and prepare general and individual reports, for each participant.

2. Internal audit: PNAEQ distributes a checklist to the participants to be used in an audit that is carried out by the participants themselves. The areas included are: laboratory facilities and working conditions; storage, packaging and transport; risk identification; incidents, injuries, accidents and occupational diseases; workers' health and safety; laboratory equipment; waste treatment; fire prevention and risk assessment in the context of biological safety.

After participants submit the results, PNAEQ analyse it and prepare general and individual reports, for each participant.

3. Case-Study: The participants are invited to answer multiple-choice questions, based on photographs that illustrate some laboratory situations, through an online questionnaire. After submitting results, PNAEQ analyse the results and prepare general and individual reports, for each participant.

Discussion

Participation in this AEQ scheme, when carried out periodically, allows the implementation of preventive and/or corrective actions to eliminate and/or reduce the causes of occurrences, sharing of knowledge, and establishing and maintaining a safe working environment for workers, patients and visitors.