



QC Out? Stop. Fix. Prove It.

Internal quality control and Westgard troubleshooting, as flow-charted in LAB-QM-ANA-001 Figure 1.

INFOGRAPHIC IG-16
Source: LAB-QM-ANA-001
Version V0 — DRAFT

THE RULE: patient testing **STOPS IMMEDIATELY** when a rejection rule is violated — and resumes only when control values are back in control.

1 · START OF SHIFT

- Run **quality control materials at the beginning of each testing shift**.
- **Record results immediately** and verify them against the active multirule.
- Decision: **are all control values within the established acceptable limits?**

YES — IN CONTROL: QC is verified within acceptable limits. **PROCEED WITH TESTING;** patient results are authorized and released.

2 · WARNING RULE ONLY

- A **warning rule** is violated, but **no rejection rule** is violated.
- **Inspect the analytical run** carefully.
- Patient results may be **released if no other rule is violated**.

KEY DISTINCTION: a warning rule alone does not stop the run — a **REJECTION RULE DOES**. When a rejection rule is violated, follow column 3.

3 · REJECTION RULE — STOP & FIX

- **Stop patient testing immediately.** Notify the **Chief Medical Technologist / Pathologist** of the stoppage.
- Inspect the error type; **investigate probable root causes**.
- Execute corrective measures; analyze **fresh control aliquots**.
- **Back in control?** Testing resumes. **Still out?** Evaluate, recall, or retest patient specimens tested **since the last acceptable QC run**.
- Document all troubleshooting on the **control troubleshooting log**. The CMT periodically reviews control records.

Run QC at shift start



All in limits? → test



Warning → inspect run



Rejection → STOP



Fix + fresh QC



Resume — or recall