

*GLOBAL STANDARDISATION OF HbA1C:
IMPACT OF THE CONSENSUS
STATEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS*

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HbA1c is one of the most important tests in the medical laboratory. Many routine methods have been developed, all having their own specificity and reference ranges. To bring order in the chaos harmonisation systems have been developed in US, Japan and Sweden. But as these are arbitrarily chosen, they produce different numbers. Following the concept of metrological traceability, the IFCC Working Group on Standardisation of HbA1c (IFCC WG) developed an absolute reference system. However, the change to new numbers in patient reports, raised discussions. There are three views: a) make a change to the new numbers, b) maintain the old NGSP numbers and c) express HbA1c in estimated average glucose units (eAG). To finish this discussion a consensus statement was signed by the IFCC, ADA, EASD and IDF. This consensus statement is a compromis: it states that all three numbers should be reported. But this is unpractical in daily praxis: the preference is "one test – one number". Thus the debate goes on and, as opinions worldwide are too different, decisions are going to be made at a national level. To guide this proces the IFCC WG advices a concerted action of all parties involved: clinicians, clinical chemists, manufacturers, patient organisations and EQA organisers. Meanwhile decisions have been made in several countries: UK and Japan will, after a transition period, report in the new IFCC units only, and US will report in the old NGSP units and eAG. The lecture will highlight the analytical aspects of the IFCC Reference Method, the debate on units to be reported, the advice to the Mexican Medical community to come to a decision at a national level and the role the national EQA organiser can play to monitor the successfull implementation and in general, to improve the performance of HbA1c.