1.0 Scope
IQMH is committed to grant accreditation according to ISO/IEC 17011:2017 *Conformity assessment – Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies* and this is evidenced through its signatory status within the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and ILAC’s regional body the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC – formerly APLAC). IQMH is evaluated regularly by APAC to reaffirm its continued compliance with the elements of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and APAC/ILAC evaluation documents, rules, policies and procedures. The nature of international recognition agreements is explained in Appendix A.

IQMH is an accreditation body that accredits medical diagnostic services, medical laboratory specimen collection facilities, and medical point-of-care testing (POCT) services utilizing three standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

This position statement affirms IQMH’s commitment to participating in the activities of ILAC and APAC.

2.0 Position Statement

2.1 IQMH will maintain full membership in APAC and ILAC, as a signatory to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of each.

2.1.1 Submit to periodic evaluation to ensure ongoing conformance with ISO 17011:2017 *Conformity assessment – Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*

2.1.2 Inform the APAC and ILAC secretariats in writing of any significant changes in IQMH’s status and/or operating practices

2.1.3 Participate in the work and decision making of both APAC and ILAC

2.1.3.1 Attend meetings, contribute actively to the proceedings, and cast ballots

2.1.3.1.1 Committees

2.1.3.1.2 MRA Council

2.1.3.1.3 General Assembly

2.1.4 Promote APAC and ILAC through use of logos according to established guidelines

2.1.5 Nominate individuals to train and participate in evaluation activities

2.1.6 Adhere to applicable codes of ethics

2.1.7 If IQMH’s scope of accreditation services/activities expands, apply to extend the scope of existing arrangements

3.0 Responsibility

The Executive Director, Programs and the President & CEO are responsible for ensuring adequate resources are allocated to meet member obligations in APAC and ILAC, and for ensuring these resources are reasonable.
4.0 References

4.1 ISO/IEC 17011:2017 Conformity assessment – Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies
4.2 APAC-MRA-001 Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Amongst APAC Accreditation Bodies
4.3 APAC-MRA-003 APAC MRA Council – Rules for its Operation
4.4 APAC-MRA-006 A Guide for the Planning and Conduct of Evaluations
4.5 APAC-GOV-001 APAC Constitution
4.6 APAC-GOV-002 APAC Regulations and Codes
4.7 APAC-COM-002 Use of the APAC Logo and Representation of APAC
4.8 ILAC R2:09/2009 ILAC Rules
4.9 ILAC R4:10/2016 Use of the ILAC Logo and Tagline
4.10 ILAC R6:02/2013 Structure of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement and Procedure for Expansion of the Scope of the ILAC Arrangement
4.11 ILAC R7:05/2015 Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark
4.12 ILAC P5:06/2017 ILAC MRA – Scope and Obligations
4.13 ILAC P8:03/2019 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Supplementary Requirements for the Use of Accreditation Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies
4.14 ILAC P9:06/2014 ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities
Appendix A: International Mutual Recognition Arrangements for Laboratory Accreditation

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) is the international forum for laboratory accreditation bodies. Its Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) is designed to ensure that test reports issued by accredited laboratories are accepted worldwide. ILAC is structured with Regional Cooperations. Comparative laboratory accreditation is achieved through a network of accreditation bodies that conform to one or more of the regional MRAs, which testify that these accreditation bodies meet international standards. This system allows recognition between member accreditation bodies of the accreditations granted by them, and provides assurance to regulatory bodies and the public that tests results from laboratories holding accreditation certificates issued by these accreditation bodies are of international repute.

IQMH is evaluated for equivalence by APAC against ISO/IEC 17011:2017 *General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*.

An IQMH-accredited facility is assessed for competence against ISO standards (e.g., ISO 15189: 2012 *Medical laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence*).