



## COLA'S LABORATORY PERFORMANCE REPORT

After completion of the on-site survey, COLA Laboratory Accreditation participants are sent either a congratulatory letter or a Plan of Required Improvement which outlines the areas where the laboratory is deficient. Accompanying either of these letters is the Laboratory Performance Report, which indicates how the laboratory is performing in comparison with other labs in a similarly-sized peer group.

### What is a Peer Group?

Peer groups are determined by the size of the facility and the number of physicians using the facility. The peer group size ranges are:

- 1-2 physicians
- 3-6 physicians
- 7-10 physicians
- 11-15 physicians
- 16-20 physicians
- 21-100 physicians
- 101-500 physicians

### Individual Score Determination

An individual laboratory's score is based on the percentage of COLA essential and required criteria found to be in compliance during the lab's on-site survey when compared to the number of essential and required criteria in each category that are applicable to the laboratory. The scores are calculated in two ways:

1. COLA Overall Score—based on the total number of criteria

applicable to the laboratory

2. COLA Category Scores—based on the total number of applicable criteria in a given category. All of COLA's survey criteria have been divided into the following categories so the laboratory director and personnel can assess their performance in each area:

- Personnel and Facility
- Proficiency Testing
- Specimen and Test Management
- Quality Control
- Quality Assurance

appear on the horizontal axis with the overall score and categories appearing on the vertical axis. The number of peer laboratories occurring within each range of scores is provided for each category. The report is designed to provide the most information in an easy-to-read format. Please see Figure 1 for an example of the grid format.

### Maintaining Confidentiality

COLA does not release laboratory performance data that identifies an individual laboratory unless the release of such data is required by law or is authorized by the director of the laboratory. COLA may, from time to time, release aggregate performance data that does not contain laboratory-specific information. Lab directors, however, are encouraged to provide the information contained in their report to patients or other interested parties.

### Report Format

When a lab receives the Laboratory Performance Report, the comparison will be presented in the form of a grid. A series of score ranges

① Your peer group is laboratories with "X" physicians		② Total number of laboratories in your peer group: "X"			
		③ Laboratories in your peer group receiving the following scores:			
Survey Area	④ Your Score %	>90%	89-80%	79-70%	Less than 70%
⑤ Overall					
⑥ Personnel & Facility					
⑦ Proficiency Testing					
⑧ Specimen & Test Management					
⑨ Quality Control					
⑩ Quality Assurance					