

QMS21

Purchasing and Inventory Management

This guideline describes effective purchasing and inventory management processes, which ensure availability of the appropriate equipment, instruments, reagents, consumable materials, other products, and services procured from external sources needed for providing quality laboratory services.

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A guideline for global application developed through the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute consensus process.

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Purchasing and Inventory Management

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Abstract

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute guideline QMS21—*Purchasing and Inventory Management* provides laboratories with guidance on developing processes for qualifying and selecting suppliers of laboratory equipment, instruments, reagents, consumable materials, other products, and services obtained from external sources; procuring, receiving, and managing inventory; and monitoring supplier performance. Laboratories need efficient and effective purchasing and inventory management processes to provide timely and high-quality services to their customers and meet regulatory, accreditation, and customer requirements.

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). *Purchasing and Inventory Management*. 1st ed. CLSI guideline QMS21 (ISBN 1-56238-800-2 [Print]; ISBN 1-56238-801-0 [Electronic]). Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, 950 West Valley Road, Suite 2500, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087 USA, 2016.

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Suggested Citation

CLSI. *Purchasing and Inventory Management*. 1st ed. CLSI guideline QMS21. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2016.

ISBN 1-56238-800-2 (Print)

ISBN 1-56238-801-0 (Electronic)

ISSN 1558-6502 (Print)

ISSN 2162-2914 (Electronic)

Volume 36, Number 15

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Acknowledgment

CLSI, the Consensus Council, and the Document Development Committee on Purchasing and Inventory gratefully acknowledge the following volunteer for her important contributions to the development of this guideline:

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Contents

Abstract	i
Committee Membership	iii
Foreword	vii
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
1.1 Scope	2
1.2 Background	3
1.3 Terminology	4
Chapter 2: Overview of Purchasing and Inventory Management	11
Chapter 3: Purchasing	15
3.1 Determining Specifications for Needed Equipment, Materials, and Services	16
3.2 Potential Suppliers Are Qualified	22
3.3 Supplier Proposals Are Compared	25
3.4 Supplier Is Selected	27
3.5 Agreement Is Finalized	29
Chapter 4: Inventory Management	37
4.1 Procurement Is Initiated	38
4.2 Equipment, Reagents, and Consumables Are Received	41
4.3 Equipment, Reagents, and Consumables Are Entered Into Inventory	44
4.4 Reagents and Consumables Are Used	49
4.5 External Services Are Used	53
4.6 Supplier Performance Is Evaluated	55
Chapter 5: Key Features of an Electronic Inventory Management System	59
5.1 Inventory Management Considerations	60
5.2 Real-Time Information	61
5.3 Perpetual vs Periodic Inventory	61
5.4 System Compatibility	61
5.5 Lot Number and Expiry Date Tracking	62
5.6 Information Reporting	62
5.7 Expected Upgrade Schedule	62

Contents (Continued)

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Chapter 6: Quality System Essentials	63
6.1 Quality System Essentials as the Management Infrastructure for Purchasing and Inventory Management ...	64
6.2 Quality System Essentials Considerations for Purchasing and Inventory Management	64
Chapter 7: Conclusion	67
Chapter 8: Supplemental Information	69
References	70
Appendix A1. Example of Items to Include in Request for Information	72
Appendix A2. Items to Include in a Request for Proposal	75
Appendix B. Suggested Elements to Include in a Supplier Audit	78
Appendix C. Criteria to Consider When Comparing Supplier Proposals	80
Appendix D. Semiquantifiable Scoring Matrix.....	84
Appendix E. Example of Approved Supplier List	85
Appendix F. Example of the Elements Contained in a Generic Purchase Order.....	86
Appendix G. Examples of Kanban Cards	87
Appendix H. Example of a Form for Determining Laboratory Items and Use	88
Appendix I. Example of a Stock Inventory Form	89
Appendix J. Example of a Perpetual Inventory Form.....	90
Appendix K. Example of a Supplier Nonconforming Event Report Form	91
Appendix L. Example of How a Supplier Score Card Can Be Used.....	92
The Quality Management System Approach	100
Related CLSI Reference Materials	102

Foreword

Developing or participating in the processes for procuring equipment, instruments, reagents, consumable materials, other products, and services from external sources needed for the laboratory’s scope of operations and managing the laboratory’s inventory of reagents and materials are critical to optimizing the effectiveness of a QMS and sustaining quality. This guideline encourages an organized approach for procuring laboratory equipment, instruments, reagents, consumable materials, other products, and services from external sources in a manner that meets regulatory, accreditation, and business requirements.

In the QMS, Purchasing and Inventory is one of the 12 quality system essentials (QSEs) described in CLSI document QMS01,¹ which defines a structured approach to organizing, creating, and maintaining the necessary information for the QSEs. The QMS model depicted in Figure 1 demonstrates how each QSE, including Purchasing and Inventory, is a building block to quality and is necessary to support any laboratory’s path of workflow from preexamination to examination to postexamination.

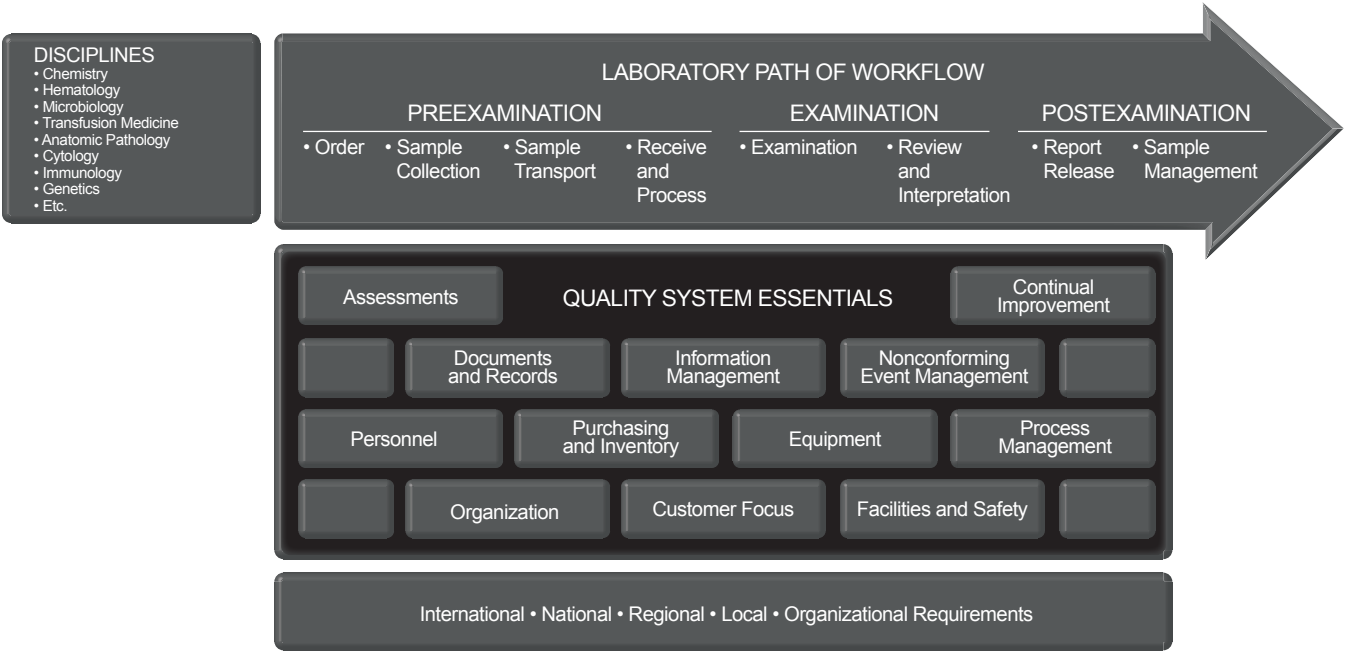


Figure 1. The Quality Management System Model for Laboratory Services (see CLSI document QMS01¹)

Properly developing or participating in purchasing and inventory management processes positively affects the:

- ▶ Effectiveness and efficiency of these processes
- ▶ Ability to reduce or eliminate costly procurement or inventory problems
- ▶ Likelihood of meeting organizational expectations
- ▶ Potential for successful regulatory and accreditation assessments
- ▶ Assurance of customer satisfaction
- ▶ Sustainable attainment of quality objectives

NOTE: The content of this guideline is supported by the CLSI consensus process, and does not necessarily reflect the views of any single individual or organization.

KEY WORDS

Consumable materials

Electronic inventory management

Equipment

Instruments

Inventory management

Materials management

Procurement

Purchasing

Qualification

Quotes

Reagents

Services

Specifications

Suppliers

Supplies

Chapter 1

Introduction

This chapter includes:

- ▶ Guideline's scope and applicable exclusions
- ▶ Background information pertinent to the guideline's content
- ▶ "Note on Terminology" that highlights particular use and/or variation in use of terms and/or definitions
- ▶ Terms and definitions used in the guideline
- ▶ Abbreviations and acronyms used in the guideline



Purchasing and Inventory Management

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This guideline is applicable to medical laboratories of any size, complexity, or specialty, including point-of-care testing (POCT). However, because the concepts behind purchasing and inventory requirements are generic, other types of laboratories, such as public health, research, food, environmental, and veterinary laboratories, can also use this guideline.

This guideline provides information for procuring equipment, instruments, reagents, consumable materials, other products, and services from external sources and also provides information about inventory management processes for externally procured or internally prepared items. Chapter 5 presents key features of electronic inventory management systems.

This guideline references procurement and inventory management of blood components and cellular therapy products but does not provide technical details. However, the purchasing and inventory management concepts presented in this guideline can be used by laboratories that support provision of these products.

NOTE:

This guideline provides information for procuring equipment, instruments, reagents, consumable materials, other products, and services from external sources and also provides information about inventory management processes.

QMS21 is a guideline for how to implement requirements established in international standards, and by regulatory and accrediting organizations for managing laboratory work processes. QMS21 is not a standard; that is, this guideline does not set requirements for purchasing and inventory management processes and procedures. Instead, this guideline describes what laboratories need to do to meet published regulations, accreditation requirements, and international standards²⁻¹³ for purchasing and inventory management, and provides suggestions and examples for fulfilling the requirements.

This guideline does not provide detailed information on how to make a business case for the purchase of expensive capital items such as equipment, instruments, test systems, or information systems. It does not discuss the purchase of other business units.