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Guidelines for the frequency of participation to external quality assessment for analyses focused on rare diseases in the Belgian Medical Centers of Human Genetics

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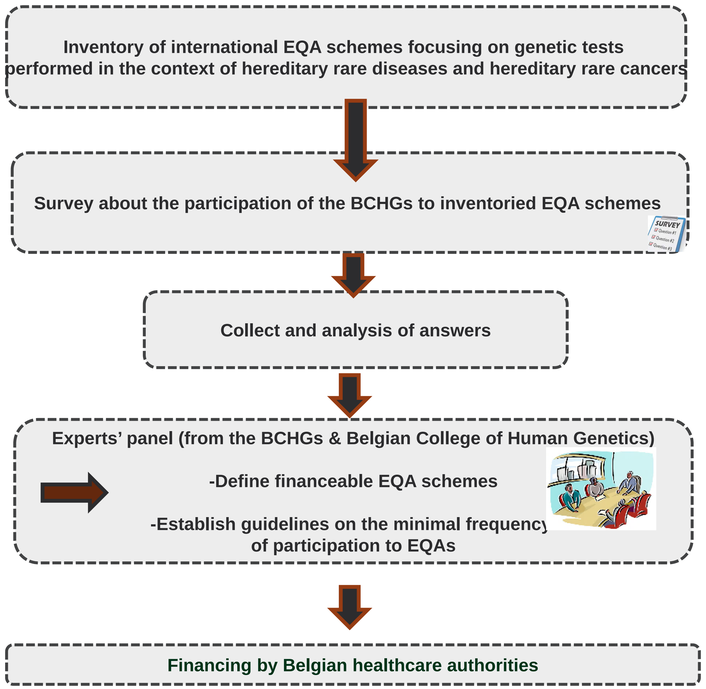
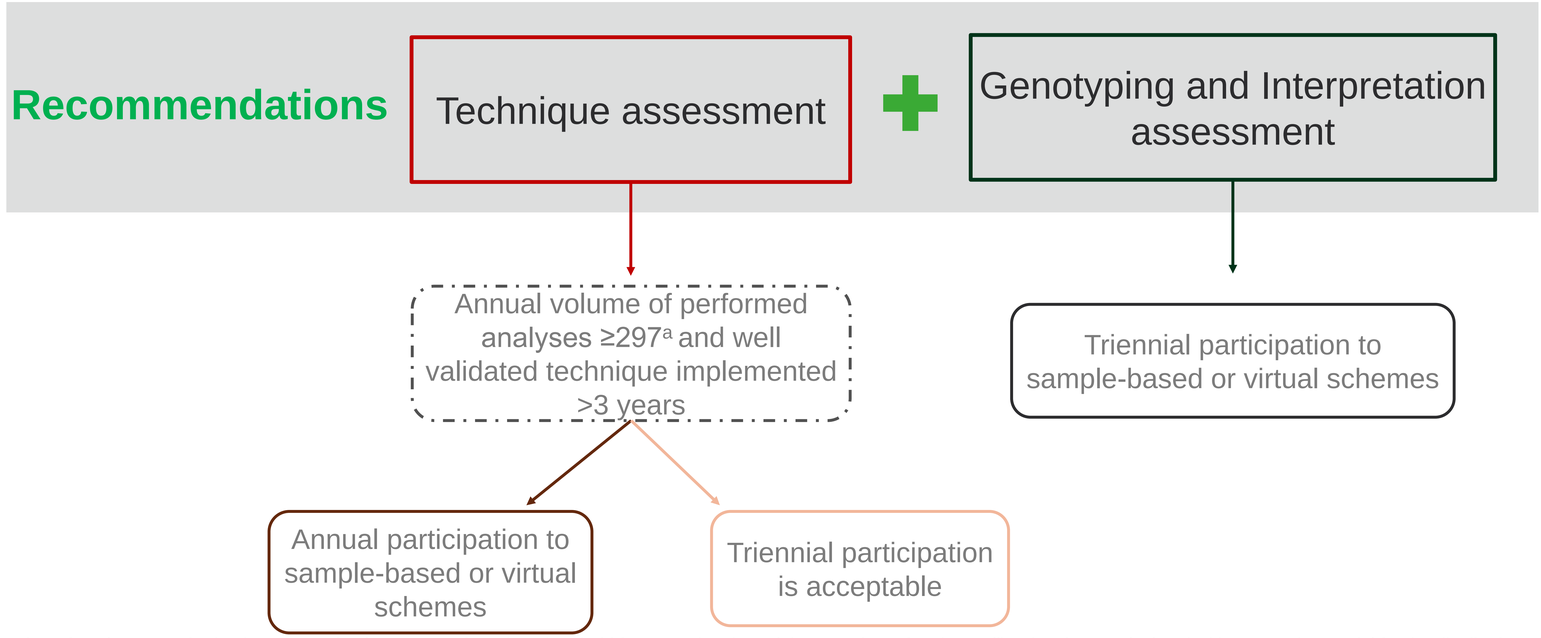
These first Belgian guidelines help the BMCHGs to improve their quality management system. Moreover, they help the Belgian healthcare authorities to estimate the budget required to cover the participation of the BMCHGs to EQAs. Therefore, we are convinced that these guidelines could be used as a starting point for discussion at a broader level.

In order to support the Belgian Medical Centers of Human Genetics (BMCHGs) in the development of a Quality Management System and the participation to EQAs, the National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance in collaboration with the Institute for health, Sciensano has developed a funding for the participation of the BMCHGs to EQAs focused on genetic tests performed in the context of hereditary rare diseases and hereditary rare cancers.

Methods



Results



[a.] Number of analyses required to have a maximal error rate of 1% (our threshold for assuming that a laboratory is performing well). It has been calculated with a Bayesian model for the distribution of possible error rates for a certain performance statistic.

REFERENCES

- Lantoine J, et al. Frequency of Participation in External Quality Assessment Programs Focused on Rare Diseases: Belgian Guidelines for Human Genetics Centers, JMIR Med Inform 2021;9(7):e27980

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