<center>**St Mulumba Mission Hospital**</center>

<center>**Laboratory Department**</center>

St. Mulumba Hospital Laboratory Accreditation Journey

The journey for Quality Improvement in the laboratory dates back to 2014. By then, the laboratory had only a handful of machines doing limited tests, while the bulk of the work was outsourced to referral laboratories. The staff working in the department were not comfortable with the status quo. With the help of the development partners like Aphia Plus and the University of Maryland, they initiated a Quality Management System. Some of the baby steps in this endeavor were mentorship and training. After five years of hard work, and the employment of more laboratory officers in the department, the Kenya National Accreditation Service (KENAS) found the laboratory to be compliant and awarded it the ISO 15189:2012 certification.

The Need

As one of the requirements for technical and managerial competency, annual management review meetings were held between 2018 and 2020 to get an overview of the QMS processes in the laboratory. Staff suggestions and recommendations for improvement are among the agenda discussed in the MRM. The suggestion to have an immunochemistry machine was born out of the high number of referred tests and the dream to create a blood transfusion unit in the future. Therefore, with the input of the hospital management, the laboratory management team gathered ideas on the best machine to purchase based on cost and test menu. The decision to acquire Maglumi 600 was made since the machine was relatively cheap and its test combination was adequate and responsive to the needs of our patients.

Installation and Training

After the acquisition of funds for buying this machine, an agreement was reached between the supplier, Chem labs Limited, and the Hospital. Soon afterwards, the long awaited analyzer arrived, safely and impeccably packaged with the delicateness it deserved. The unboxing of this equipment was exhilarating. The laboratory staff on duty held their breath until the nuts and bolts were loosened. The engineers from the supplier assembled all the parts and, on pressing the power button, the robotic arm of the machine made its maiden twists and turns. The engineers carried all the subsequent checks and tests to ascertain the fitness of the equipment. That was that for the initial checks. The machines was powered off until later.

A week later, the application specialist for this range of analyzers came to the facility for training. The three day training covered general operations, calibration, and troubleshooting. After the training, the specialist took the laboratory staff through running its internal quality control. The IQC results for thyroid function tests (TFTs) and Antinuclear Antibody (ANA) were satisfactory. Before running the patient samples, the staff took a post-training test through which they were declared competent to operate the analyzer. Since installation, the equipment has functioned flawlessly and actualized our dream of issuing quality test results to the doctors and patients in line with our quality policy and objectives. We hope that this analyzer will come in

handy in the establishment of St. Mulumba Hospital Laboratory Blood Transfusion Unit (BTU). The pictures below show the new face of the laboratory due to the new machine.

Figure 1: Maglumi 600 with reagent chamber open

Figure 2: Maglumi 600: Front View

Figure 3: The laboratory Manager runs a sample on the analyzer

A Word of Thanks

Certainly, we could not have achieved all this progress without your kind support. Indeed, you have proven that you are our pillars and anchors. We appreciate your efforts of making us an institution of higher standards and global repute. With this machine, we can now attain the ranks that looked difficult a few years ago. We can serve our patients better as co-workers of Christ the Healer. Kindly receive the gratitude of our hearts. We Pray God for blessings to you and your families, Long Lives, Health and Prosperity.