

# QC Best Practices That Save Time and Money

Do QC right—not more QC than necessary

Article 12 of 22

7 min-minute read

## 1-2s/1-3s

Core Westgard rules  
for every lab

## 24 hrs

CLIA minimum QC  
frequency for most analytes

## Monthly

Review QC data for  
trends and patterns

*Quality control is non-negotiable, but the way you implement it can either drain your resources or run efficiently alongside patient testing. The key is doing QC right—not doing more QC than necessary.*

## 1 Understand Westgard Rules

Use the 1-2s warning rule and the 1-3s rejection rule at minimum. Do not create arbitrary QC acceptance criteria. The Westgard website offers free guidance on which rules to apply.

**QUICK TIP:** Westgard.com has free rule selection guidance.

## 2 Run QC at the Right Frequency

CLIA requires QC at least once every 24 hours of patient testing. If your instrument has been stable and you run QC four times daily, consider reducing to twice daily. Each unnecessary QC event consumes reagent and control materials.

**QUICK TIP:** Evaluate whether extra QC events are catching real problems.

## 3 Use Equivalent QC Where Applicable

Some analyzers offer built-in electronic or procedural QC that can reduce external liquid control needs. Consult your manufacturer and accrediting body.

## 4 Keep Levey-Jennings Charts

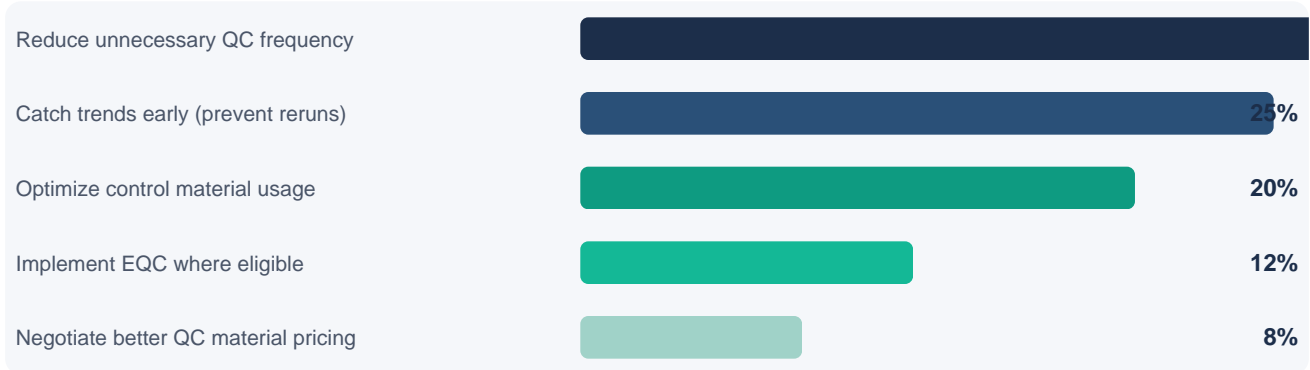
Plotting QC data over time helps spot trends before they cause rejections. Catching a drift early with preventive maintenance is cheaper than a failed QC run and repeated patient samples.

**QUICK TIP:** Trend monitoring catches problems before they become expensive.

## 5 Document and Review Monthly

Monthly review of QC data reveals recurring issues: poor-performing lots, specific times with higher variability, instruments needing more calibration. These patterns inform purchasing and maintenance.

### QC COST REDUCTION OPPORTUNITIES



Typical QC cost savings breakdown for independent labs

**BOTTOM LINE:** Do not confuse more QC with better QC. Focus on appropriate frequency, proper rules, and trend monitoring to maintain quality while controlling costs.

### FREE TOOLS TO GET STARTED

Template	What It Does
<a href="#">QC Tracking / Levey-Jennings Log</a>	Track QC data with auto-calculated Z-scores and Westgard flags

**Download the complete JIT4LABS Templates Toolkit**  
23 ready-to-use Excel templates covering inventory, financials, compliance, and more.  
[Visit: \[jit4you.myshopify.com/resources\]\(https://jit4you.myshopify.com/resources\)](https://jit4you.myshopify.com/resources)

This is Article 12 of the **JIT4LABS Lab Operations Resource Series** — 22 practical guides for independent diagnostic labs.