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Comparison of State regulations: Quality oversight of testing

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Abstract:
Issue:
There is no standardized approach to medical cannabis testing and identification of best practices used in the US and the 3 territories when implementing ISO/IEC 17025 requirements.

Background:
ISO/IEC 17025 requirements set the bar in various clinical industries. The components of the ISO standards that we will focus on in this presentation are drawn from resource requirements, process requirements, and management requirements. At minimum, ISO is needed for testing and establishing a standard for laboratories producing quality cannabis products. Some states have passed laws and regulations that contain components of these requirements. Other states have not codified these standards in law.

Method:
We examined the laws and regulations for the 39 states and three US territories with legalized medical cannabis programs. This examination includes a comparison of states promulgate of these requirements.

Results:
The results show varying degrees of ISO 17025 implementation throughout the states and territories. Examples of full ISO implementation include Utah, Pennsylvania, Maryland, California, and Georgia. Examples where the law is silent regarding ISO implementation include Vermont and Washington state. Additionally, there appears to be a patchwork of non-standardized testing and best practices which could significantly impact patient self-management.

Conclusion:
We cannot offer effective medicinal cannabis if we cannot agree on defined minimum requirements that ensure quality nation-wide. The need for cannabis testing laboratories to embrace ISO accreditation is valuable and needed because it demonstrates consistency in operations which promotes standardization and quality. Accreditation sets standards for the organization which secures the quality, safety, and efficiency.