Accreditation of medical laboratories

Decisions on diagnosis, management and prognosis often rest on the results of laboratory investigations. Therefore it is extremely important that we have medical laboratories which produce reliable investigation reports. In order to achieve this, we need to have medical laboratories which are credible and reliable.

Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment Act was passed in 2005 and the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) was established. Among many other things, SLAB is empowered by the act to grant accreditation in accordance with national standards based on relevant international standards to laboratories. Laboratory accreditation is an external audit of the ability of a laboratory to provide a high quality service. The laboratory must demonstrate that it can produce accurate, precise, valid and reliable reports while maintaining safety of the laboratory workers, patients and the society.

Accreditation is a voluntary process. Therefore, when the process of accreditation goes into full swing in the future, as doctors we have to make sure that we obtain services from accredited laboratories as much as possible.