

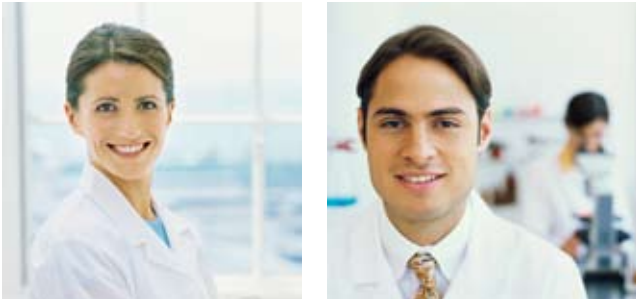
Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme



Accreditation
Assessment
Training
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WHAT IS THE DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING ACCREDITATION SCHEME (DIAS) ?

The Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme was established in June 2007 through a Federal amendment to the Health Insurance Act 1973.

It covers a range of diagnostic imaging services under the Radiology Quality and Outlays Memorandum of Understanding (Radiology MOU), and from 1 July 2008 accreditation under the Scheme became a mandatory prerequisite in order to qualify for the payment of Medicare benefits for these services.

Currently, there are 2700 practices participating in Stage I of the Scheme - of which more than 1000 were registered by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA).

The Scheme was implemented in stages to ensure that practices had ample time to prepare for accreditation under the DIAS and to allow the continuation of Medicare benefits during the transition.

While not all Medicare funded diagnostic imaging services are presently covered, Stage II of the Scheme will see the inclusion of non-radiology services, such as cardiac imaging, nuclear medicine imaging, and obstetric and gynaecological ultrasound.

From the commencement of the Stage II Scheme on 1 July 2010, all practices that offer diagnostic imaging services must be accredited under the DIAS, or deemed to be so, in order to remain eligible for Medicare benefits.

Transitional arrangements are in place to allow practices accredited under Stage I to remain eligible to receive Medicare funding for diagnostic imaging services until 30 June 2012, by which time they must

demonstrate compliance against the full suite of Practice Accreditation Standards.

Practices that have provided non-radiology services prior to 1 July 2010 and have not been accredited under Stage I can register for deemed accreditation without having to demonstrate compliance with the Practice Accreditation Standards. These practices can continue to provide Medicare funded diagnostic imaging services until 30 June 2011, while working towards accreditation under the Stage II Scheme. All registrations for deemed accreditation must be received by 24 June 2010.

THE NATA DIFFERENCE

Seeking accreditation under the DIAS through NATA offers many advantages, including:

- The support of a nationally recognised accreditation body with extensive experience in the Australian healthcare industry, delivering rigorous and robust accreditation programs to Australia's Pathology and Medical Imaging communities.
- NATA is the only accrediting body that provides pathways from the mandatory DIAS to a higher level accreditation, in the form of the voluntary RANZCR/NATA Medical Imaging Accreditation Program (MIAP).
- A simple and streamlined online assessment tool
- A team of dedicated professionals, with a sound understanding of the needs of diagnostic imaging practices, having supported practices through Stage I of the DIAS.
- On-site access to an industry specialist with 30 years' imaging experience across multiple modalities in numerous settings.
- A dedicated case manager to provide a single, consistent point-of-contact, to build a working knowledge of each practice and to assist staff to work through issues as they arise.



GET STARTED

Gaining accreditation under Stage II of the DIAS is straightforward, whether or not the practice has been accredited under Stage I. Here are the easy steps:

Non-accredited practices seeking to enter the Stage II Scheme

1. Determine whether your practice is eligible to enter the Scheme under the transitional arrangements*. If not, then skip to step 3.
2. Register online for deemed accreditation with NATA at www.nata.com.au prior to the 24 June 2010 deadline and await further instructions. Then skip to step 4.
3. Complete the online registration form and await further instructions.
4. From 1 July 2010, complete your practice's application for accreditation by logging on and completing the online self-assessment checklist, making sure to attach documentary evidence of compliance with the relevant Practice Accreditation Standards.

Stage I accredited practices moving to the Stage II Scheme

1. Did your practice apply for Stage I accreditation with NATA? If so, skip to step 3.
2. Complete the online registration form and await further instructions.
3. From 1 July 2010, complete your practice's application for accreditation by logging on and completing the online self-assessment checklist, making sure to attach documentary evidence of compliance with the full suite Practice Accreditation Standards.

Our online assessment tool will guide you through the process and comes complete with a help function providing you with a link to the Standards and sample evidence requirements.

Once the checklist on your practice has been completed, NATA staff will undertake a desktop audit of the evidence provided and make a decision on granting of accreditation under the DIAS.

Need assistance? Contact us on 1800 621 666 to speak to one of our friendly team. NATA's highly qualified and experienced staff understand the needs of diagnostic imaging practices and are fully conversant in the requirements of the DIAS.

* Transitional arrangements have been put in place to allow practices in operation prior to 1 July 2010, providing non-radiology services, who have not previously been accredited under the Stage I Scheme to register without initially demonstrating compliance with the entry level Practice Accreditation Standards.

RANZCR/NATA MEDICAL IMAGING ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (MIAP)

NATA and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) run a joint Medical Imaging Accreditation Program (MIAP) that is highly respected, has a proven track-record, and is dedicated to providing quality technical accreditation.

The Federal Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) automatically recognises all facilities accredited under the MIAP as having met its compulsory DIAS requirements.

The program was updated in 2009 to offer greater quality, convenience and flexibility, along with cost savings.

Facilities accredited under the MIAP are assessed against the professionally developed standards produced by RANZCR – Standards of Practice for Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology Version 9.

Facilities accredited under DoHA's DIAS through NATA can upgrade their accreditation at a later date to the full RANZCR/NATA MIAP.



CLIENT TESTIMONIES

“NATA staff provided clear and consistent information through each step and provided clarification on some of the more complex issues.”

Brigitte Coster, Melbourne Radiology

“NATA staff provided good quality, consistent liaison and communication, especially during the review process. Managing a group of sites could be an onerous task, but the staff at NATA facilitated the process in a timely and straightforward manner.”

David Witte, Quality Manager, Southern Health, Diagnostic Imaging

“Global Quality Accreditation provides consultancy services to over 250 Diagnostic Imaging sites throughout Australia. After a review of the available providers we chose NATA to accredit our clients, due to their experience in the industry and competitive pricing. It has been our experience that NATA and its staff have been accessible, informed and accurate in dealing with all our sites. They have made the process seamless and painless.”

Andrew Destro, Director, Global Quality Accreditation

“I would like to take the opportunity to thank the team at NATA for their assistance during Stage I of the accreditation program. With almost 20 sites to accredit it was always going to be a large task, but with the help and guidance of NATA, the outcome was achieved smoothly and on time. The team offered a personal service, often contacting us to advise what was outstanding, which all assisted in the process being painless.”

Nicole Smith, Accreditation Manager, Capitol Health

THE NATA TEAM

NATA’s highly qualified and experienced team understands the needs of diagnostic imaging practices. The team at NATA brings a specialist understanding of the health sector, a thorough knowledge of the context in which it operates and a sound appreciation of broader health issues in Australia.

Its members are fully conversant in DoHA’s requirements, and will remain essentially unchanged as we move into Stage II of the Scheme. In addition, NATA is able to offer onsite access to an industry specialist with over 30 years’ imaging experience across multiple modalities in a variety of settings.

DIAS Stage II

Information regarding Stage II of the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme can be found on the Department of Health and Ageing’s website. Visit www.nata.com.au/dias.

More information

To speak with a member of the NATA diagnostic imaging team, email diaccreditation@nata.com.au or phone 1800 621 666. Alternatively, visit our website at www.nata.com.au/dias.