

Accreditation Advice for the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (DIAS)

Before being eligible to provide Medicare funded diagnostic imaging services, your practice must have an LSPN and must be accredited under the DIAS.

The Australian Government manages the DIAS, which was developed to ensure consistency across a wide range of practice types, in safety and quality standards across all radiology and non-radiology services. Any practice intending to render any diagnostic imaging service/s listed in the Diagnostic Imaging Services Table (DIST) of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), must be accredited under the DIAS to remain eligible for Medicare benefits.

The DIST, which is Category 5 of the MBS, covers the following modalities:

Ultrasound	Orthopantomography (OPG)
Computed Tomography	Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
General Radiology (X-ray)	Cardiac Ultrasound
Mammography	Cardiac Angiography
Angiography	Obstetric and Gynaecological Ultrasound
Fluoroscopy	Nuclear Medicine Imaging

Practices that do not have accreditation under the DIAS cannot provide a service listed in the DIST for the purposes of Medicare benefits and must inform clients prior to carrying out these services. It is an offence under the *Health Insurance Act 1973* for a proprietor of a practice not to notify patients that the practice is not accredited and a Medicare benefit is not payable *before* providing diagnostic imaging services.

You need to choose **one** of the three approved accreditors to accredit your practice under the DIAS.

The three approved accreditors for the DIAS are:

**Health and Disability
Auditing (HDAU)**

**National Association of
Testing Authorities,
Australia (NATA)**

**Quality in Practice
(QIP)**

Phone: 1800 601 696

Phone: 1800 621 666

Phone: 1300 888 329

Website: www.hdaau.com.au

Website: www.nata.com.au

Website: www.qip.com.au

If your practice is a department within a hospital, it is possible that an LSPN and accreditation already exists for the services that your department provides. Please check with other users of the facility before proceeding.

Making an application to become accredited involves submitting written evidence to your chosen accreditor that demonstrates that your site is able to meet the accreditation standards. There are fifteen full suite practice accreditation standards that new practices may apply for. The Accreditation Standards and additional information regarding accreditation can be downloaded from the Department of Health and Ageing's website www.diagnosticimaging.health.gov.au

Guidelines to assist practices to comply with the Practice Accreditation Standards are available online at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/di-info-res>

Accreditors have 15 working days from the date of the acceptance of a practice's application to assess the evidence and make an accreditation decision. The longer it takes you to submit your written evidence the longer it will take an accreditor to accept your application and assess it. While each of the accreditors is required to assess an application for accreditation in the same way there are differences between the approved accreditors regarding their fees. You should choose the accreditor that best meets your practice's needs.

Information about the DIAS can be obtained from the Department's website www.diagnosticimaging.health.gov.au . If you require further assistance, you can contact the Department of Health and Ageing either by phone on (02) 6289 8859 or email di.accreditation@health.gov.au