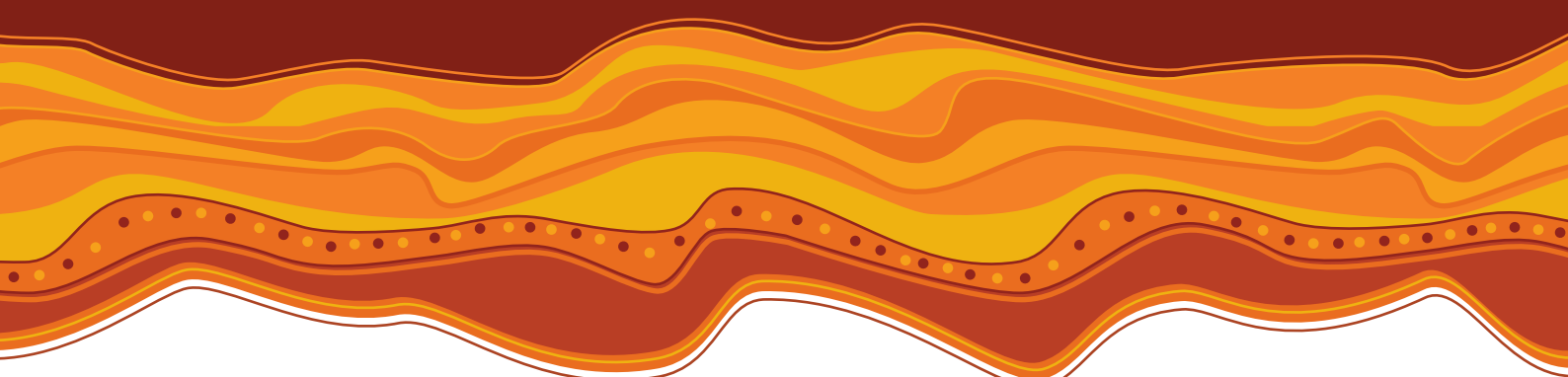




Background Information

for Diagnostic Imaging Practices



Introduction

The Health Insurance Amendment (Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation) Act 2007 (the DIA Act) amended the Health Insurance Act 1973 and established a legislative framework for the introduction of an accreditation scheme for practices providing diagnostic imaging services under Medicare.

The DIA Act established:

Standards that practice sites need to comply with; and
A system for obtaining and maintaining accreditation; and
A process for undertaking assessments and conducting reviews and appeals; and

- Accreditation organisations that assess practices against the standards.

The DIA Act requires accreditation for diagnostic imaging services other than:

- Cardiac Ultrasound;
- Cardiac Angiography;
- Obstetric and Gynaecological Ultrasound; and
- Nuclear Medicine Imaging.

Practices that only operate the above modalities do not need to register or apply for accreditation.

Practices providing diagnostic imaging services that want to claim Medicare benefits need to apply to an accrediting agency for a desk-top audit with evidence that the Diagnostic Imaging standards are being achieved.

After the accrediting agency has reviewed the application evidence forwarded by the diagnostic imaging practice, a certificate of accreditation is provided or the practice needs to take action to meet the standards.

Practices that have applied for or already have medical imaging accreditation

Practices that have applied for medical imaging accreditation that become accredited before 1 July, or practices that already have medical imaging accreditation, will be granted accreditation for the corresponding modalities under the diagnostic imaging scheme until 30 June 2010.

Contact HDAAU

Contact us on **Freephone** 1800 601 696 or by **email** at di@hdaau.com.au



Who needs to do what and by when?

For the purposes of diagnostic accreditation there are two key groups of practices. The following describes the key steps and critical dates to becoming accredited as a diagnostic imaging practice and continuing to access Medicare benefits. Follow the steps described below:

Step One. Register

Who	Does this	No later than
Diagnostic Imaging Practices	Registers with HDAAU using the HDAAU website	By 20 June 2008
HDAAU	Reviews registration information and notifies Medicare that the practice is registered for accreditation.	Within two days of receiving the registration but no later than 23 June 2008
	Notifies the registering practice that the registration has been received and that they are deemed accredited.	
Medicare	Reviews all registrations and determines those practices that continue to be able to access Medicare benefits.	By 30 June 2008

Step Two. Apply (From 1 July 2008)

Who	Does this	No later than
Diagnostic Imaging Practices	Compiles all relevant information to demonstrate that the standards are being achieved and submits this information to HDAAU.	By 20 June 2009
HDAAU	Receives application documentation and notifies Medicare that the practice has applied for accreditation.	Within two days of receiving the application but no later than 23 June 2009
	Notifies deemed accredited practices that their application has been received.	
Medicare	Reviews all applications and determines those practices that continue to be able to access Medicare benefits.	By 30 June 2009



Step Three. Desk-Top Audit

Who	Does this	No later than
HDAAU	Completed the desk top audit for deemed accredited practices and notifies Medicare and the practice of the result.	Within six months of receiving the application.
	Complete the desk top audit new practices commencing after 1 July 2008 or an existing practice that did not register before 30 June 2008.	HDAAU will complete the audit within 10 days.
Diagnostic Imaging Practices	DI accredited practices will not need to take any further action.	No action for practices that achieve accreditation.
	DI practices that are not accredited will need to take action to comply with the standards or they may seek reconsideration of the accreditation decision	Practices that are not accredited may seek reconsideration within 28 days of the desk top audit being completed.
New practices commencing after 1 July 2008 or an existing practice that did not register before 30 June 2008 will need to apply for accreditation with HDAAU and HDAAU will complete the audit within 10 days.	20 June 2009	
Medicare	Reviews all accreditations and determines those practices that continue to be able to access Medicare benefits.	

Practices that are accredited for diagnostic imaging will be certified until 30 June 2010.

