

Understanding the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme

Accreditation under the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (DIAS) ensures that diagnostic imaging practices meet nationally recognised standards for safety and quality, giving patients confidence in their care.

The Accreditation Model

Practices must be accredited to provide Medicare services listed in the [Diagnostic Imaging Services Table](#). The requirements for obtaining and maintaining accreditation are set out in the [Health Insurance \(Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation\) Instrument 2020](#), which provides the legislative framework for the DIAS.

- **Full Suite Accreditation:** Practices must demonstrate compliance with all 13 DIAS Standards. An accrediting agency reviews submitted documentation, and if all requirements are met, the practice is awarded full suite accreditation, valid for four years.
- **Entry Level Accreditation:** Practices seeking accreditation for the first time may apply for entry level accreditation, which requires compliance with four of the 13 DIAS Standards. If these requirements are met, the practice is granted entry level accreditation for two years, after which it must transition to full suite accreditation. Entry level accreditation can only be held once.

Steps to becoming accredited

1. Obtain a [Location Specific Practice Number](#) (LSPN), or check that the LSPN you hold is valid by visiting the [Services Australia](#) website
2. Determine if you are eligible for entry level standards or the full suite of standards
3. Select and engage an [approved accreditation agency](#)
4. Apply to an [approved accrediting agency](#) in writing, specifying the diagnostic imaging practice and modalities to be accredited
5. Complete the application process and provide the accrediting agency with the evidence required to undergo assessment
6. A desktop audit of the evidence provided must be completed within 30 business days by the accrediting agency. Where practices meet the requirements of the DIAS Standards, accreditation is awarded for either two or four years, depending on the level.

Activities not permitted under the DIAS Accreditation Scheme

Backdating

Backdating is raised as an issue when a practice's accreditation lapses before the next assessment is finalised and accreditation is awarded. The period for which backdating is sought is the time between the expiry date and the date accreditation is next awarded. The *Health Insurance Act 1973* states Medicare benefits are not payable for diagnostic imaging services unless they are carried out at a premises accredited to provide the service.

DIAS accreditation is forward facing and precludes accreditation being backdated. Diagnostic imaging practices need to allow sufficient time to be assessed and accredited before their accreditation expires.

If a practice's accreditation expires before their next assessment is finalised and accreditation awarded, Medicare benefits are not payable for services provided during the period without accreditation.

A proprietor commits an offence if a diagnostic imaging procedure is provided at a non-accredited premises or mobile base, and the patient is not informed (either in writing or by a prominently displayed notice at the location) that Medicare benefits will not be payable due to the lack of accreditation.

Summary of backdating

- DIAS accreditation cannot be backdated.
- If accreditation lapses, Medicare benefits are not payable for medical imaging services during the gap.
- Patients must be informed if Medicare benefits are not payable for a service.
- Practices must allow enough time to commence assessment before the accreditation expiry date.

For more information

Please visit: safetyandquality.gov.au/DIAS

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