

# Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme categories

## Public consultation

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) is reviewing the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (DIAS).

## Background

In 2025, the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee (DIASAC) recommended the DIAS Scheme name to be changed to MIAS (Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme). This is to encapsulate imaging services that are non-diagnostic in nature. This name change will come into effect in 2028 when the MIAS will be implemented. This change would mean DIAS standards which will be known as Medical Imaging Standards and DIASAC will be known as MIASAC (Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee).

## Update on the Medical Imaging standards

In addition to the accreditation scheme, the DIAS Standards are currently under review to become the new Medical Imaging (MI) Standards.

The Commission is undertaking a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) and working with health economists to complete a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) on the implementation of the standards.

For further information on the CBA, please reach out to Sarina Lacey at [slacey@thecie.com.au](mailto:slacey@thecie.com.au).

## Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme

Accreditation provides assurances to the community that healthcare services meet the expected standards for safety and quality. Medical Imaging practices providing Medicare benefit services must be accredited under DIAS.

The Commission coordinates DIAS in collaboration with key sector representatives, who support the assessment of medical imaging practices against the standards.

Under the DIAS, the current accreditation process involves an announced assessment, which is a desktop assessment conducted every four years and completed by accrediting agencies.

The Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee (DIASAC) has consistently recommended a transition from a desktop assessment to an assessment mode that involves a direct assessment of medical imaging practices.

### Consultation

From May to September 2025, the Commission undertook a public consultation on proposed changes to the DIAS. These changes are outlined in Box 1.

#### Box 1. Proposed changes to medical imaging accreditation

- Shift to a three-year assessment cycle
- A risk-based assessment method including virtual, hybrid and onsite assessment
- Introduction of [short notice assessment](#) and sampling.
- Align medical imaging accreditation with the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation (AHSSQA) Scheme for providers already accredited to the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards or National Safety and Quality Primary and Community Healthcare (NSQPCH) Standards.

The feedback collected during the consultation indicated that although the sector supported the stratification of medical imaging practices based on risk and complexity, the sector sought further stratification of the categories.

Based on this feedback, the Commission and the DIASAC have further refined the proposed practice categories outlined in **Appendix 1**. The Commission is seeking feedback to these categories via submissions.

The assessment methodology of medical imaging practices will be determined by the practice category. The proposed assessment methods are detailed in Box 2.

#### Box 2. Assessment modes

**Virtual assessment:** Virtual assessment involves assessing an imaging practice using digital or remote means to view the imaging practice and interview and observe the workforce, consumers and carers. The independent assessment team attends the imaging practice remotely to evaluate its compliance with the standards.

**Hybrid assessment:** Hybrid assessment involves assessing imaging practices using a combination of virtual and onsite assessments. The onsite visits observe operations, practices and facilities, while the virtual assessment focuses on interviews and document review.

**Onsite assessment:** Onsite assessment involves assessing imaging practices using a physical visit to observe the imaging practice and interview the workforce. The independent assessment team examines the operations, practices and facilities of the

imaging practice, conducts interviews with the workforce and patients, and verifies the authenticity and accuracy of documentation provided by the imaging practice.

## Sampling

The proposed changes to the DIAS include the introduction of sampling. Sampling involves selecting a representative subset of the imaging provider's practices to undergo assessment. Sampling is only permitted when multiple imaging providers operate under a single governance structure and will require regulatory approval.

To ensure consistency, the Commission has developed sampling methodologies for their schemes. These sampling methodologies are applied to all accrediting agencies and eligible health care services. A sampling methodology example can be found on the [Commission's website](#).

## Remote and rural imaging practices

Imaging providers classified under the [Modified Monash Method](#) as remote or rural (3-7) can apply to the Commission for a virtual or hybrid announced assessment. The Commission will undertake a risk assessment for the imaging practice.

## Have your say

The Commission would welcome your feedback on the proposed changes to the DIAS by **6 April 2026**. Individuals and organisations can provide feedback via survey ([MIAS Scheme Consultation](#)) or via written email submission to [diagnosticimaging@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:diagnosticimaging@safetyandquality.gov.au).

The Commission is seeking feedback regarding the revised risk stratification categories via the following questions:

1. Do the categories reflect service complexity appropriately?
2. Are the proposed assessment model and schedule appropriate?
3. Are the proposed group definitions clear?
4. Do you support adopting this new categorisation model?
5. Are there risks or unintended impacts? If so, what changes do you propose to the categories?

Written submissions can address all or any of the above questions.

## Next steps

Once all feedback has been considered, a final proposal for the Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS) will undergo a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA). A regulatory impact assessment helps decision makers are provided with the necessary evidence base to make the decisions that are in the best interest to all stakeholders.

The current timeframe for implementation of the MIAS is early 2028. The Commission will work with the sector in developing a transition process and building implementation resources.

## More information

For more information, please email [diagnosticimaging@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:diagnosticimaging@safetyandquality.gov.au)

## Appendix 1

Characteristics	Assessment mode	Assessment schedule
<b>Group 1</b>		
Self-referred ultrasound imaging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excludes image guided intervention</li> </ul>	Virtual assessment	Announced assessment
<b>Group 2</b>		
Single modality practice	Hybrid assessment	Announced assessment
	Virtual assessment	Short notice
<b>Group 3</b>		
Multi-modality practices	Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First assessment announced</li> <li>All subsequent assessments at short notice assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Group 4*</b>		
Single of multi-modality imaging providers approved for sampling	Onsite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First assessment announced</li> <li>All subsequent assessments at short notice assessment</li> </ul>
<b>Group 5</b>		
Imaging services operated in facilities already accredited to NSQHS or NSQPCH Standards	Onsite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment aligned with the NSQHS or NSQPCH Standards</li> </ul>

\*The inclusion of sampling requires regulatory approval.



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