



# UKAS accreditation for Imaging Services

 **UKAS**  
A world of confidence



# Delivering confidence in diagnostic Imaging Services

UKAS is the sole National Accreditation Body of the UK, recognised by the Government to assess and declare the competence of an organisation. We have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide accreditation across diagnostics on behalf of the Government. The standards used in accreditation are internationally agreed (e.g. ISO 15189), national standards (e.g. BS 70000) or professionally developed (e.g. IQIPS).

Accreditation involves the assessment of the competence and impartiality of an organisation and supports diagnostic Imaging Services to make continuous improvements, ensuring patients consistently receive high quality services delivered by competent staff working in safe environments. From Summer 2024, all services will be assessed to BS 70000:2017.

## Accreditation requires Imaging Services to demonstrate the following:

- + Quality management and internal audit systems showing organised processes in place that are subject to regular review and monitoring.
- + Local policies and procedures that incorporate best professional and regulatory requirements.



- + Equipment that is procured, installed, maintained and subjected to regular quality assurance testing to ensure that it operates effectively and safely.
- + Staff that are demonstrably competent with mechanisms in place to maintain this on an on-going basis.
- + Provision of a patient-focused service that seeks and acts on patient feedback.

Therefore, accreditation benefits both the Imaging Services, and the commissioners of Imaging Services, as it demonstrates compliance with defined standards and best practice.

As expected in healthcare, the accreditation process is rigorous. However, all services that have achieved UKAS accreditation believe that it is worthwhile and that it has strengthened their service.

All standards used by UKAS across diagnostic healthcare review the service's quality management system and technical aspects of the service. UKAS uses trained independent Technical Assessors led by a UKAS Assessment Manager who are themselves a registered healthcare professional. This means that your service is objectively assessed by people who understand your clinical provision and the requirements of each modality.

Our governance processes are defined by international accreditation regulations and mean that you can be assured of a truly independent evaluation process.

## Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs)

National Health Service England has stipulated that accreditation across all diagnostics is in place within two years of each CDC becoming operational. As of autumn 2023, UKAS is working with interested parties to determine the most suitable approach to deliver accreditation across the relevant disciplines, and the scope and the time-frames that services are expected to work to.

For more information, please contact us at [CDCenquiries@UKAS.com](mailto:CDCenquiries@UKAS.com).

## Nuclear Medicine Departments

UKAS is collaborating with the British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS) in order to provide support and external assurance on the quality, reliability and safety of Nuclear Medicine Services. The two organisations will work together with audits from BNMS complimenting UKAS accreditation processes.

If you have any questions, please contact the UKAS Development team at [DevelopmentEnquiries@ukas.com](mailto:DevelopmentEnquiries@ukas.com).





# Information, support and advice about becoming UKAS accredited

UKAS is proud to offer a full support package for all services at each stage of their accreditation journey.

All applicant services are allocated a trained Assessment Manager to help guide them through their pre-assessment and initial assessment phases with resources available such as the UKAS readiness tool and gap analysis.

Assisted application training and e-learning modules are available for applicants in new areas of accreditation to enhance their learning in advance of their initial assessment. For more information about this, please contact [developmentenquiries@UKAS.com](mailto:developmentenquiries@UKAS.com).

Drop-in support sessions, webinars and e-learning packages are routinely offered to all Imaging Services actively engaged with the accreditation process for assurance that they will be supported across their accreditation journey in the years to come.

Visit our website - <https://www.ukas.com/accreditation/standards/quality-standard-imaging/> for access to information about how to apply for accreditation, FAQs and case studies.

## UKAS Training Academy



### Classroom Training

The UKAS Training Academy provides classroom training for all who want to learn about standards such as ISO 15189. The courses, taught by expert assessors, help participants develop skills for effective conformity assessment systems.



### Digital Education

Our range of eLearning modules have been developed to help demystify some of the more complex topics surrounding accreditation. Anytime, anywhere that suits you.



### Advisory

UKAS Advisory Services help countries and regions to improve their quality infrastructure and trade competitiveness, by providing technical assistance, training and accreditation support in various sectors. We collaborate with our UK Quality Infrastructure partners and customise our programmes to each client's needs and goals.



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## Top tips for successful UKAS accreditation for your Imaging Service

- + Get to know the accreditation standard and complete a gap analysis so you understand the size of the task.
- + Engage with UKAS, which can provide invaluable support in your preparation for accreditation from the outset.
- + Network with other Imaging Services.
- + Gather a core multi-disciplinary team who really want to achieve accreditation. Make sure senior management understand the benefits and are fully committed and supportive.
- + Involve all staff so that accreditation 'belongs to' and is not 'done to' them.
- + Encourage staff to become assessors to gain further knowledge about the process.
- + Assign a Quality lead with quality management experience and dedicated time to co-ordinate the work and lead the project.
- + Devise, fund and implement a project plan with realistic time frames and update staff on the progress.
- + Develop a robust quality management system and regularly review its processes.
- + Ensure documentation is standardised, controlled and reviewed regularly.
- + Establish a quality improvement programme that includes a comprehensive internal audit plan.
- + Engage local patient and service user focus groups
- + Liaise with your Assessment Manager throughout the accreditation process to stay on track.

**Remember that this process will improve your service - both for your patients and for your staff.**

### How to become a Technical Assessor or expert for UKAS

If you are interested in becoming part of the team that assesses Imaging Services for UKAS accreditation, then please contact the UKAS team at [askimaging@ukas.com](mailto:askimaging@ukas.com).

This is an exciting role with a small time commitment for remote or on-site assessments. It provides excellent CPD opportunities for the individual and will support Imaging employers to develop a service that is safe, effective, and continually improving. UKAS is currently recruiting Radiologists, Radiographers, Sonographers and Nuclear Medicine Technologists.

### How to apply for accreditation

If you are interested in applying to become an accredited Imaging service please follow this link to find a review of the process and the key stages. <https://www.ukas.com/gain-accreditation/>

### How to find an accredited organisation

If you would like to find an accredited Imaging service please visit our website - <https://www.ukas.com/find-an-organisation/>

### Further information:

For further information about any of the above, please contact: [askimaging@ukas.com](mailto:askimaging@ukas.com)

## Get in touch

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