

National Safety and Quality Medical Imaging (NSQMI) Standards Summary

The National Safety and Quality Medical Imaging (NSQMI) Standards aim to protect the public from harm and improve the quality of imaging delivered. They describe a nationally consistent safety and quality framework for imaging providers to apply when providing health care. The standards applied to:

- Medical imaging services under Medicare listed in the [Diagnostic Imaging Services Table](#)
- Medical imaging services under Medicare that do not require accreditation
- Non-Medicare imaging services

Accreditation to standards is a prerequisite for accessing Medicare benefits for imaging services listed on the Diagnostic Imaging Services Table.

The NSQMI Standards suite consist of four Standards. Each Standard contains:

- A statement of intent
- Criteria describing the key areas covered
- Explanatory notes on the content of the standards
- Item headings for groups of actions
- Numbered actions describing the requirements to be met

Implementation guidance includes:

- Reflective questions
- Suggested strategies
- Examples of evidence
- Links to useful resources

Standard 1. Clinical Governance Standard

All standards must periodically be updated to take account of changes in models of care, evidence or practice and consumers' needs.

The fourth edition of the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (DIAS) Standards has been reviewed to address gaps in clinical governance, consumer and patient engagement, and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

There are four National Safety and Quality Medical Imaging Standards, with most imaging practices already meeting many of these requirements. Those practices that already comply with the DIAS Standards can build on these strategies.

Governance

- Clinical governance, leadership and culture
- Business decision making
- Subcontracted services

Patient Safety and quality systems

- Risk management
- Policies and procedures
- Quality improvement, measurement and performance
- Incident management
- Open disclosure
- Feedback and complaints management
- Information security
- Healthcare records
- My Healthcare Record

Clinical performance and effectiveness

- Clinical performance and effectiveness
- Safety and quality training
- Clinical supervision
- Performance management
- Evidence-based care

Safe delivery of care environment

- Safe environment
- People with diverse care needs

Standard 2. Partnering with Consumers: Delivering person-centred care Standard

This Standard describes the strategies to create a person-centred health system and partner with consumers in their own care. This includes providing information needed, in a way a person can understand, to make decisions about their health care. There are 5 actions addressed under two criteria in this Standard.

Person-centred care

- Partnering with a consumer in their own care
- Informed consent
- Shared decision making

Health literacy

- Health literacy
- Accessing imaging practice and service information

Standard 3. Clinical Safety Standard

The Clinical Safety Standard describes the systems and processes to minimise clinical risks and ensure patients' appropriate, safe, high-quality care. There are 20 actions addressed under five criteria in this Standard.

Infection Control

- Medication, contrast media and radiopharmaceutical safety
- Peripheral intravenous catheters
- prevention and control precautions
- Workforce infection and immunisation
- Aseptic technique
- Reprocessing of reusable equipment and devices

Medication, contrast media and radiopharmaceutical safety

- Medication, contrast media and radiopharmaceutical safety
- Peripheral intravenous catheters
- Sedation and anaesthesia

Recognising and responding to acute deterioration

- Recognising acute deterioration or distress and escalating care

Communicating for safety

- Communicating for safety
- Request assessment

Delivering quality imaging services

- Patient identification and imaging service matching
- Planning an imaging service
- Minimising patient harm
- Changing the imaging service
- Image interpretation and reporting
- Communicating results
- Reporting critical results
- Intervention radiology

Standard 4. Technical Safety Standard

The Technical Safety Standard describes the systems and processes to ensure a safe environment and appropriate use of technology for imaging. There are nine action address in three criteria in this Standard.

Imaging equipment effectiveness

- Equipment replacement
- Equipment maintenance
- Equipment quality assurance
- Magnetic resonance imaging safety
- Medical imaging decision support software

Imaging optimisation

- Imaging optimisation

Radiation Safety

- Radiation legislation and regulation
- Radiation protection
- Radiation optimisation

For more information

For more information, please visit: safetyandquality.gov.au/NSQMI-Standards

You can also contact the [Safety and Quality Advice Centre](#) or phone 1800 304 056



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