

Improving Quality in Physiological Services (IQIPS)

*Delivering quality
physiological services*



What is IQIPS?

Improving Quality in Physiological Sciences, IQIPS, is an assessment and accreditation scheme that aims to improve the quality of service, care and safety for patients undergoing physiological tests, examinations and procedures. Strongly supported by the Royal College of Physicians, NHS England, and recognised by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), accreditation brings national recognition with a badge of quality.

The scheme offers a range of benefits including the sharing of best practice and the opportunity to enhance efficiency with evidence for local leverage. As the influence and use of accreditation increases within the healthcare sector, local and national commissioners are increasingly requesting UKAS accredited services.

As the national accreditation body of the UK, the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) delivers the IQIPS scheme from the pre-application stage through to formal third-party assessment for accreditation.

The IQIPS scheme is available to eight physiological science disciplines:

- Audiology
- Cardiac physiology
- Gastro-Intestinal physiology
- Ophthalmic and Vision science
- Neurophysiology
- Respiratory and Sleep physiology
- Urodynamics
- Vascular science

How do I get started?

Physiological services embarking on their journey towards accreditation should consider registering for the **Traffic Light Ready (TLR) Online Tool** and the **Refundable Package**.

In addition, services have the opportunity to upload any relevant policies and procedures prior to making a formal application for accreditation, thus saving time during initial assessment. TLR is an advanced and interactive online tool which is designed to help services to complete a structured, comprehensive gap analysis against the IQIPS Standard. It provides access to all IQIPS Standard supporting information, such as the commentaries, and it includes functionality to record notes throughout. TLR enables services to highlight areas of conformity and best practice whilst building detailed action plans for areas that require further development.

TLR will calculate a 'readiness score' throughout, and displays the result as a traffic light colour that represents how ready a service is to formally apply.

TLR is only available as part of the Refundable Package, which also includes two places at a Preparation for Accreditation Workshop and on-going support from a UKAS Assessment Manager.

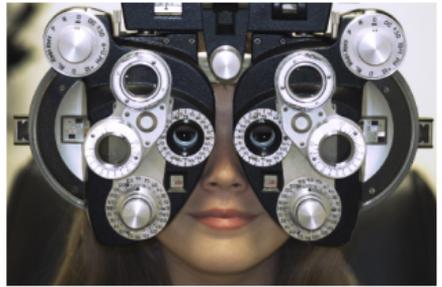
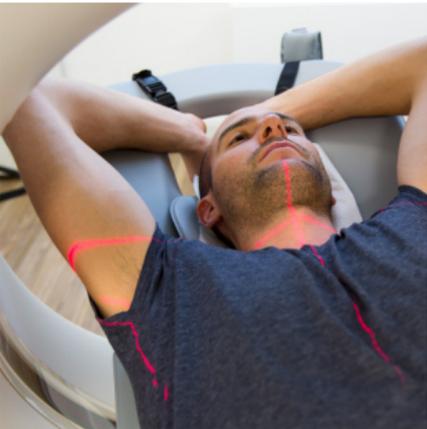
If a service formally applies for accreditation within a specified timeframe (details at www.ukas.com), the TLR registration fee will be deducted from the first accreditation fee payable.

Further information and details of how to apply can be found on the UKAS website at www.ukas.com

IQIPS Preparation for Accreditation Workshop

UKAS hold regular one-day workshops designed to help organisations to prepare for assessment. The workshops include practical exercises and cover a variety of topics such as the process of assessment, the fee structure, useful hints and tips, and most importantly, it provides an opportunity for services to ask any questions.

A workshop programme along with dates, venues and registration details can all be found on the UKAS website: www.ukas.com



“We fully support a commissioning system focus on the prioritisation of accredited diagnostic services. We are confident that with continued resolute focus, accreditation will become the baseline standard for diagnostic services across the NHS in England.”

NHS England (NHSE)

Hear from IQIPS Accredited Customers...

“The work required to achieve accreditation cannot be underestimated but it is so worthwhile... it demonstrates to patients and commissioners our capability, competence and commitment to providing quality audiology services. The whole team felt a great sense of achievement when we achieved our accreditation”

Tony Kay, *Head of Audiology Services,
Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*

“...The support received from application to accreditation has been excellent and the whole process has been a positive one.”

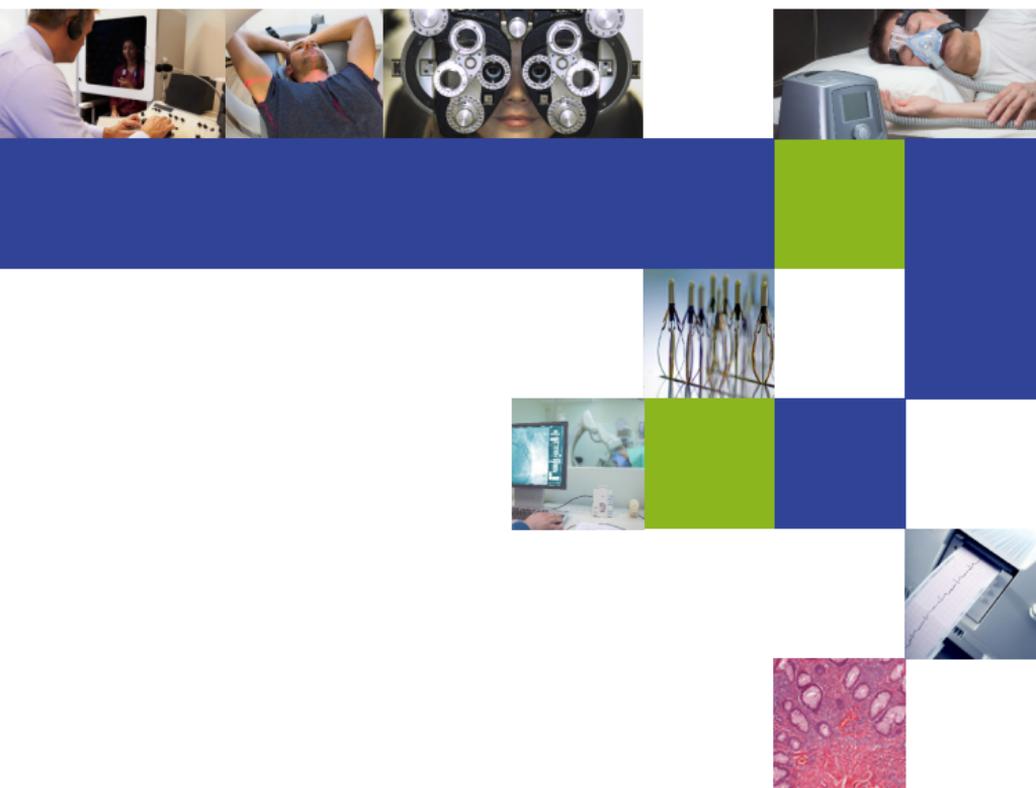
Martin Anderson, *Advanced Practitioner in Audiology
Bolton NHS Foundation Trust*

“...the accreditation process was challenging, but provided a good opportunity to ensure that all our services, policies and procedures are compliant with the latest clinical, legal and regulatory standards and good practice. We were impressed by the professionalism of the UKAS team... they were very thorough but remained positive and constructive throughout and all their findings were justified and clearly explained.”

Jane Shaw, *Chief Executive,
Action for Deafness*

“Achieving UKAS accreditation assures our patients, referrers and commissioners that we are providing a quality service. The process involved a huge amount of work, but supported by the UKAS team, has resulted in improved service quality, patient experience and patient care. Our team is now stronger and more efficient with a shared commitment to quality care and continuing service improvement.”

Heather Day-Lascelles, *Head of Audiology,
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*



To find out more about IQIPS, please visit
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