Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering Accreditation
About MPACE

The drive to improve the quality of care for patients, whilst delivering efficiency and productivity, is a key objective for NHS England and most healthcare services. Through diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering (MPACE) directly impact the majority of patients and the care and treatment they receive. It is therefore essential that these services consistently deliver high quality care by maintaining the safety and the accuracy of equipment used and ensuring that procedures are evidence based, safe and effective.

As the UK’s National Accreditation Body, UKAS has been appointed to manage and deliver the accreditation of MPACE services. UKAS is the only body recognised by Government, to assess and declare the competence of organisations against internationally recognised standards. Accreditation for MPACE services will be against BS 70000.

UKAS accreditation gives formal third party recognition that a service has demonstrated the organisational competence to deliver a high quality service. Accreditation provides reassurance and delivers confidence to users of the service, such as patients, commissioners and staff, of consistent high quality care delivered by competent staff working in a safe environment.

UKAS, the Institute for Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) and NHS England will work together to build on the previous work undertaken in the ‘ICEPSS’ project and look to develop an appropriate accreditation scheme for a number of MPACE specialisms which BS 70000 covers, for example:

- Biomedical engineering
- Biomedical engineering
- Clinical measurement and development
- Diagnostic radiology and MR physics
- Equipment management and clinical engineering
- Medical electronics and instrumentation
- Medical engineering design
- Nuclear medicine
- Radiopharmacy
- Radiation safety
- Radiotherapy physics
- Reconstructive science
- Rehabilitation engineering
BS 70000 does not detail the technical specification required to carry out specific activities. However, it does require the healthcare service to demonstrate competency and the validity of the methods used to deliver the activity along with a number of other key requirements relating to operating a compliant management system, training and competency, traceability, uncertainty, use of appropriate equipment and facilities amongst others.

**BS 70000 areas of assessment**

- Management System (equivalent requirements to ISO 9001)
- Objective evidence to support competency of staff undertaking the activities
- Operations and use of appropriate methods
- Objective evidence to demonstrate the validity of the adopted methods
- Monitoring of the ongoing validity and reliability of the services being offered
- Use of appropriate equipment
- Traceability of any measurements taken or produced
- Understanding of any uncertainties in the output from the service
- Appropriate handling of items/information submitted
- Appropriate facilities and environmental condition
Current Progress

UKAS has established a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in collaboration with NHSE and IPEM to support the development of accreditation for MPACE. It consists of representatives from relevant stakeholders and technical experts and is providing advice and guidance on all aspects of the accreditation of MPACE. Both initially and on a continuing basis, it is important to ensure access to advice and guidance on specific clinical and technical issues, and interpretation of the scheme requirements.

In 2017, a UKAS pilot assessment programme was announced. The pilot will use BS 70000 as the criteria for UKAS assessment and accreditation and will include two service areas. http://www.ukas.com/services/technical-services/development-of-new-areas-of-accreditation/current-pilot-projects/medical-physics-and-clinical-engineering-mpace/

The pilot programme aims to:

■ Confirm that BS 70000 is an appropriate standard
■ Establish a robust assessment approach and process
■ Determine the scope of accreditation
■ Identify potential assessors and sources of assessors

For areas outside of the scope of the initial pilot areas, UKAS will continue to work with the relevant experts to develop the accreditation scheme in readiness for their inclusion after the pilot activities have been completed, further information about the background of the development project can be found in a recorded webinar which is available on the UKAS website.
The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is a non-profit-distributing private company, limited by guarantee. It is independent of Government but operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government through the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

The influence and use of UKAS accreditation in the Healthcare sector is growing. UKAS accreditation is now available in the areas of Diagnostic Imaging (ISAS), Physiological Sciences (IQIPS), Medical Laboratories, Point of Care Testing, Healthcare Pathway Reviews and Dental Service Certification. For more information about UKAS and healthcare accreditation, please visit: www.ukas.com/sectors/healthcare

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