



## **The Association of Neurophysiological Scientists (ANS) & British Society of Clinical Neurophysiology (BSCN)**

### **Official Position Statement on UKAS Accreditation via the IQIPS scheme – June 2019.**

*(Email communication to members circulated on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019)*

Improving Quality in Physiological Services (IQIPS) is an accreditation scheme covering the 8 core physiology disciplines; Audiology, Cardiac Physiology, Gastro-Intestinal Physiology, Vascular Science, Urodynamics, Ophthalmic & Vision Science, Respiratory & Sleep Physiology and Neurophysiology. The IQIPS scheme is managed and delivered by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) and has run since 2012. The observed standards were developed and are maintained by the professional bodies of the physiology disciplines, the Accreditation Clinical Advisory Group (ACAG).

The path to gaining accreditation starts by reviewing the resources and standards (which cover 4 domains) that are published on the UKAS website; these can be used to assess and improve your service without any financial cost. Preliminary registration with UKAS can then be undertaken. This provides a support package that includes the use of the *Traffic Light Ready* (TLR) web-tool, preparation support, access to Linked In forum, 2 places at a preparation for accreditation workshop and estimate of fees; this is a cost effective means of compiling the necessary evidence and further closing any gaps between the standards and current practice. The Registration stage attracts an annual fee of £500+VAT and most registrants spend less than a year at this stage. Registrants then progress via an application for assessment and accreditation. The cost for this is £1500+VAT, however if your application is within a year of registering then it is reduced to £1000+VAT.

Accreditation is a process of continual quality improvement and once this is achieved a four-year cycle of improvement and reassessment follows; this attracts an annual fee, an estimate of which can be provided by UKAS on request.

Clearly this involves a significant investment of time, resources and finances; however there are approaches that can alleviate some of this burden;

1. A Neurophysiology service does not have to be accredited all at once; accreditation can be gained for individual elements (e.g. an EEG or EMG/NCS service) or one location rather than all delivery locations. Extensions to scope can then be used to bring in further locations or activity.
2. Three of the four domains are generic, and the work involved in completing these can be shared if your service makes a joint application with other Physiology Services within your Trust (which in itself can reduce the cost).
3. Raising awareness with and getting buy-in from your Trust's Board and managers could be critical in gaining the required finances and resources. For instance, this could be achieved by inviting your Chief Executive, Medical Director or Head of Governance to a local Clinical Governance meeting where UKAS accreditation to the IQIPS standard is promoted.

**ANS wholly endorses UKAS IQIPS scheme and encourages all Neurophysiology Services to start on the journey to accreditation.** The benefits and motivators are clear;

1. Improved patient care that is evidenced based
2. It is a kite-mark of good quality for your department as it shows engagement in a process of continual quality improvement.
3. UKAS accreditation to the IQIPS standard is recognised by commissioners and CQC inspectors, and furthermore may reduce the inspection activities of the latter.
4. The process of gaining accreditation can be used as leverage for making a change, e.g. to gain backing for improvements to your service
5. Accreditation is endorsed by NHS England and the Chief Scientific Officer
6. It is mandatory for all Physiology services associated with a Genomics Centre.