



# UKAS accreditation for imaging services

 **UKAS**  
A world of confidence



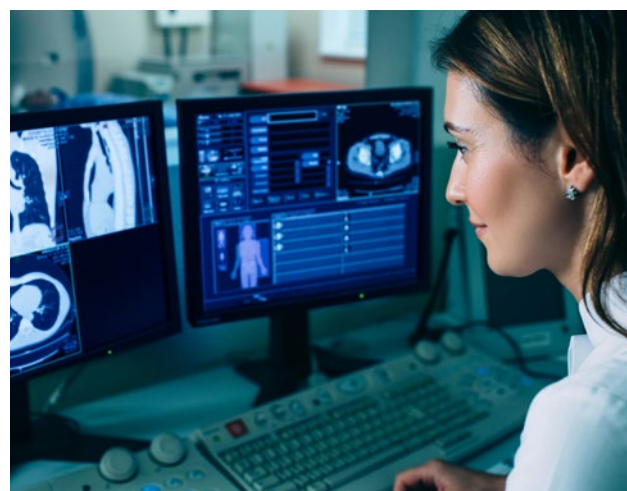
# Delivering confidence in diagnostic imaging services

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 to provide accreditation across diagnostics on behalf of the government. The standards used in accreditation are internationally agreed – e.g. ISO 15189, or professionally developed e.g. QSI and MPACE.

UKAS accredits Diagnostic Imaging Services by assessing whether they meet the requirements of the Quality Standard for Imaging (QSI). 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.

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 and mechanisms to maintain this on an on-going basis
- + Provision of a patient focussed 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.



## Information, support and advice about becoming UKAS accredited

If you are wondering whether your service already meets the QSI Standard or if you should use it in conjunction with accreditation as an agenda for improvement, there is a wide range of support and advice available from UKAS to help you assess your current performance and, if necessary, to develop and improve.

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

You can also access NHS England's position statement on accreditation schemes for diagnostic services, which strongly endorses participation of diagnostic services in accreditation schemes and asks commissioners to consider these schemes as essential when assessing good quality diagnostic services.

## UKAS workshops

Our UKAS Training Academy provides dedicated workshops and courses for the healthcare sector.

### QSI Preparation for Accreditation Workshop

The workshop will provide information on the QSI Standard, what the accreditation process involves and how to present evidence. This workshop can be provided as a bespoke day tailored to your service.

### Holistic Quality Management for the Healthcare Sector

This training course provides insight into how the organisational processes of a healthcare service provider can be combined effectively with the requirements of the QSI standard.

### QSI Standard Awareness Course

A new course available from 2023 to enhance your understanding of how the organisational processes of imaging services can be improved by meeting the requirements of the QSI standard.

### Internal Audit for Healthcare Course

This training course provides the skills required to deliver audits to benefit service users and patients whilst meeting the requirements of the QSI standard.

Our Academy is also developing a number of eLearning courses both across healthcare and specific to imaging services which are free of charge to our UKAS customers.

For further information about our courses, or if you would like a subject covered that is not currently available, please visit the UKAS website - <https://www.ukas.com/training-and-advisory/>, or contact our training department - [training@ukas.com](mailto:training@ukas.com).

### Community Diagnostic Centres

NHSE have stipulated that accreditation across all diagnostics is in place within two years of each CDC becoming operational. As of autumn 2023, UKAS are 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 planning 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. Departments can be assessed to both the QSI, and BS7000 (MPACE) standards ensuring full assessment of all relevant areas.

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

## 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 who 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 see the information on the UKAS website - <https://www.ukas.com/company/careers/vacancies/imaging-assessors/>

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

[sales@ukas.com](mailto:sales@ukas.com)  
+44 (0) 1784 429000  
[ukas.com](https://www.ukas.com)



UKAS | A world of confidence

Ref: UKAS B15 10/2023