



The Quality Standard for Imaging – supporting and enabling quality improvement in imaging services

Frequently asked questions

What is the Quality Standard for Imaging?

The Quality Standard for Imaging (QSI) sets national quality criteria for imaging services. It is against this standard that services should evaluate their performance and make improvements where needed to meet - and continually improve against - the set criteria. Meeting the standard can be independently evidenced by accreditation. The standard was formerly known as ISAS (Imaging Service Accreditation Scheme)

How can I learn more about the Standard?

The Standard can be found on these web pages: www.rcr.ac.uk/qsi and www.sor.org/qsi or email one of the Quality Improvement Partners at QSI@rcr.ac.uk

How do we access the Colleges' support?

The Quality Improvement Partners are available by email, phone or to visit your department at any stage. Online resources have been updated and can be found on the QSI webpages www.rcr.ac.uk/qsi or www.sor.org/qsi. Further supporting documentation & training/networking days will be communicated as they become available. Suggestions for useful tools can be sent to our Quality Improvement Partners via QSI@rcr.ac.uk.

Network sites are available through QSI Future NHS web pages or a WhatsApp group, with regular monthly remote meetings, with talks from QSI experienced staff in a number of UK services. Contact the Quality Improvement Partners for a list of upcoming topics and to be included on the invitation list.

What will the QSI offer that is different?

In early 2019 the Colleges surveyed all services about their experience in working to the previous iteration of the standard. We know that many services are under severe constraints, both financially and with workforce shortages of both radiologists and radiographers nationally. We want to provide support to services to meet the standard.

How does the college help me meet the standard QSI work?

The Colleges are developing a range of supporting resources which will help services meet the standard through a staged approach. This can ultimately lead to accreditation. The first three stages are new and intended to make meeting the standard more manageable in these challenging times. Ongoing college support will be available for all stages.

Does QSI apply to all four UK countries?

Yes – and to NHS, commercial and not for profit imaging services in any of those countries.

How much will this cost?

There will be no charge for the support made available through the Colleges. UKAS will continue to charge fees for assessment and accreditation.

Our service is in the TLR system - what does this change mean for us?

The only change will be the enhanced support available through the Colleges using the colleges' Gap Analysis Tool as found on the QSI webpages.

We have no interest in accreditation - is QSI relevant to us?

Yes - The QSI enables services to develop quality improvement building on their existing evidence base. By working through the Standard you can be assured that the entire evidence healthcare regulators require will be easily available within your quality management system and a quality culture is embedded across your service.

Our service has a CQC rating of excellent/good. Why do we need QSI too?

The CQC, and devolved nation equivalents, provide regulation for services via rules and guidance which must be followed as a legal requirement. The QSI considers quality with specific reference to imaging services. Imaging services are obliged to meet their legal obligations via the CQC and other healthcare regulators. In meeting the QSI you will have approval from a professional body that you have met an external standard that exceeds the baseline requirements of regulators and embeds the culture of quality improvement within your team.

Is it just a lot of work for no reward, with no funding or staff to do this?

The staged approach to quality improvement being offered by the Colleges will help support you in reaching your service performance and quality goals as well as meeting professional guidance recommendations. Compliance with existing regulations are already requirements for service delivery and you will find that your service already meets many of the standards. Enhanced support from the Colleges should make gaining recognition for your commitment to quality and safety more manageable and achievable.

What is the role of UKAS with the QSI?

UKAS is the independent accreditation body for the UK and works with the colleges to support those services who wish to apply for independent accreditation. UKAS will assess services that have applied to become accredited and to grant accreditation. Accreditation continues to enable demonstration that you have all the systems in place for a competent, safe, effective and continually improving imaging service.

Do we have to be UKAS accredited?

The QSI process allows your service to build the evidence base for accreditation. UKAS undertake assessments for accreditation independently against the QSI. UKAS Accreditation is recommended by NHS England/Improvement and the Care Quality Commission in England and is supported by the statutory healthcare bodies across the UK.

How can I find out which services have been accredited to the standard?

The full list of accredited services can be found on the UKAS website https://www.ukas.com/list-all-organisations/?org_type=8&org_cat=

