

IANZ Radiology Newsletter March 2011

International Accreditation New Zealand
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Dear Client

Greetings from the IANZ team! We are saddened to hear of recent events in Christchurch and our thoughts are with all who are affected by this tragedy.

The Radiology team at IANZ hope to periodically offer updates on matters of interest and particular items of relevance to the Radiology Accreditation Programme.

From the General Manager, Accreditation Services - *Barry Ashcroft*

*New Zealand Code of Radiology Management Practice
Radiology Services — Particular requirements for quality and competence
(Developed from NZS/ISO 15189: 2007)*

Background

In accordance with international best practices, accreditation standards are generally subject to revision every five years. The current standard for the accreditation of Radiology Services is the New Zealand Code of Radiological Management Practice:2006 and thus a review and update is timely. The current 2006 edition is an IANZ publication (first published in 1998) based upon a draft of the international laboratory accreditation standard *NZS/ISO/IEC 17025:1999 – General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*.

Current status

Since 1999, ISO/IEC 17025 has been revised and updated to a new edition (NZS ISO/IEC 17025:2005) and a new medical laboratory accreditation standard has been published (*NZS/ISO 15189:2003 – Medical Laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence*; later revised to a new edition NZS/ISO 15189:2007).

IANZ is committed (as a matter of policy) to ensuring your Radiology Service accreditation programme is maintained consistent with international best practices for quality and competence. In the absence of a dedicated international accreditation standard for the accreditation of radiology services, the new Code has been up-dated to ensure it remains consistent with these other accreditation standards.

In particular, with the publication of ISO 15189 for medical laboratories, the decision has been made to adopt the 2007 edition of this standard as the base standard for the new NZCRMP:2011. ISO 15189 is seen as a “better fit” for Radiology Services given its specificity to the healthcare sector and its focus on patient care, rather than the more generic ISO/IEC 17025:2005.

Therefore, the new NZCRMP:2011 may, on the surface, appear to be significantly different for the 2006 edition. However, beyond style and format, IANZ believe the intent of the elements of the new NZCRMP remains fundamentally unchanged and that the large majority of accredited services will already comply with these requirements. Full information relating to the changes will be provided with the new publication when it is sent to you, and IANZ’s Radiology team will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

From the Chairman, Radiology Professional Advisory Committee (RADPAC) – Dr Richard Beedie

It is hoped this newsletter will become a regular means of updating accredited practices on developments at IANZ, provide notice of any alterations to the accreditation standards and any changes in IANZ expectations.

It is also an opportunity to address common causes of CARs (Corrective Action Requests) or Strong Recommendations and in some cases offer tips or suggestions that may assist.

A number of sites have had CARs regarding contents of reports and in particular, recording of contrast media dose and type in their radiology reports. This is a requirement in the IANZ standard, and is also required by the RANZCR standard and ACR.

Currently there is a QUDI (Quality Use of Diagnostic Imaging) project underway for the College “Radiology Written Report Guideline Project” by A/Prof Stacey Goergen. This guideline is up for discussion and you can find a link to it at <http://www.ranzcr.edu.au/news/article.cfm?intArticle=379>. While this information may be separately recorded in RIS (Radiology Information System), this is not widely available to other doctors to whom the written radiology report is the most readily available source of information regarding previous studies, contrast given, reactions etc.

Many of us have found that in the age of multislice CT and PACS, this information is not always in front of us at the time of reporting.

Tip: *Have your MRTs annotate the contrast type and dose directly onto the post contrast images before they are sent to PACS.*

Further Tips and Suggestions – IANZ Radiology Team

Over the past six months, the Radiology team at IANZ has identified some issues for circulation to our clients, to enable review of these in preparation for your next IANZ assessment.

Pulse oximeters in the MR room

Clients are advised to check that their pulse-oximeters utilised within the MR suite are MR-safe. It has recently been identified that some *MR-compatible/MR-conditional* pulse-oximeters, which are not *MR-safe*, and their battery packs are crossing the 5 Gauss line. This is a significant hazard to patients, staff members and equipment. If services are not sure if their pulse-oximeters and accessory items are MR-safe, you are advised to use a strong hand-held magnet to check the battery charger, the battery in the pulse-oximeter and the stand to determine if these items are ferrous.

Medical Council teleradiology requirements

During 2010, the Medical Council of New Zealand issued a supplement to the New Zealand Gazette (Issue 8) which detailed some requirements for radiologists who wish to be registered to provide a teleradiology service. IANZ is scheduled to meet with the MCNZ in March 2011 to discuss these new requirements, particularly the issue where “the overseas facility that the medical practitioner works for must be accredited by an accredited body recognised by IANZ”.

Examination report content

Clients are reminded to review NZCRMP Clause 3.8.2.1 and 3.8.2.2, in addition to published Supplementary Criteria for Accreditation to ensure examination reports contain all necessary information.

Information that continues to be identified as absent includes

- the name and address of the client requesting the examination
- name and address of the location where the examination was carried out

- date of the examination
- date of the report
- details of any contrast media used during the examination
- the protocol used (CT and MRI)

Radiology services should also review a sample of examination reports issued in all formats, such as hardcopy, EDI and WebComrad to identify any discrepancies in content / format.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this email, please feel free to contact any of the team.

Kind regards

The IANZ Radiology Team