Summary of Changes
DAP Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Standards 2014

Based on the feedback received from members of the DAP advisory committees, surveyors and clients, the standards have been revised to reduce ambiguity, increase specificity, remove redundancy and provide more clarity for interpretation.

The most significant changes within the standard categories are as follows:

Governance and Leadership

A number of the criteria descriptors have been consolidated within the Governance and Leadership section, and includes the addition of new standards addressing risk management.

Medical Staff

Changes were made to the delegation of medical acts standards; technical delegates are now permitted to conduct the initial and ongoing competency assessments associated with each delegated act. These technical delegates will need to be clearly defined by the medical leader and be assessed by the medical leader to ensure their competency.

Human Resources

The changes to the human resource standards include: consolidation of initial and ongoing training requirements that were located in other categories, additional training and education requirements for technologists who perform mammography, computed tomography and bone densitometry examinations, and the need to conduct regular competency assessments of staff in all modalities.

General Safety

New standards have been developed to ensure the safe use of centrifuges, fume hoods and biological safety cabinets.

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Infection Prevention and Control

The reprocessing of semi-critical medical device standards have been updated to reflect the use of closed-system reprocessing units (e.g. Trophon probe reprocessing units).

Quality Improvement

The quality improvement standards have been significantly consolidated. Internal auditing and clinical indicator monitoring are still requirements; however, facilities are now permitted to identify individual areas for improvement based on the services they provide and their operational processes.

Information Management

Further consolidation of standards occurred within the information management section in addition to changes in image and report retention times based on the B.C. Limitations Act.

Imaging Informatics

All standards associated with primary and secondary displays are now consolidated within the Imaging Informatics section. Minimum specification requirements have also been introduced for secondary displays, in addition to security requirements for the storage of examination data on portable media (e.g. CDs, DVDs, USB media).

Equipment and Supplies

Acceptance testing and quality control requirements for both primary and secondary monitors within mammography services have been updated to reflect the digital mammography recommendations in Health Canada Safety Code 36.

Radiation Safety

The radiation safety standards now reflect the mammography radiation safety recommendations of Health Canada Safety Code 36 and eye dose recommendations of the International Commission on Radiation Protection (ICRP). New to the standards is the requirement to conduct comprehensive radiation protection surveys of diagnostic mammography examination rooms and monitor the eye dose of individuals who perform interventional radiology procedures.

The need to document and record the last menstrual period of females between the ages of 11-55 undergoing a radiological procedure has also been made a best practice. To support this change, services are now required to have a documented policy and procedure to address pregnant or potentially pregnant patients undergoing any examination that involve radiation exposure to the abdomen or pelvis.
Mammography

Acceptance testing and quality control standards for digital mammography and tomosynthesis systems have been included based on the recommendations of Health Canada Safety Code 36.

Ultrasound

Obstetrical ultrasound reporting requirements have been included based on the recommendations of Perinatal Services British Columbia. The quality control requirements for ultrasound systems have also been expanded to include a number of new semi-annual and annual procedures.

Echocardiography

New standards have been included to address contrast enhanced imaging in echocardiography. These standards include minimum equipment requirements and the degree of physician supervision required during the examination.

Computed Tomography

New CT colonography standards have been included to address the use of insufflators and the administration of medication by technologists. Changes to the frequency of certain quality control requirements have also been made.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Magnetic Safety

The MRI and magnetic safety standards have been updated to reflect the guidelines in the American College of Radiology’s Safe MR Practices 2013. In addition, quality control requirements in MRI have been expanded to include daily, weekly, monthly and annual procedures.

Nuclear Medicine

There is a new section in the nuclear medicine standards called Radiopharmacy. This section includes new standards that address the cleaning of work surfaces within the radiopharmacy, and the personal protective equipment that must be worn while working with radiopharmaceuticals.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Diagnostic Accreditation Program at 604-733-7758 ext. 2635.