Accreditation Overview

Presented by:
Dina Hernandez, BSRS, RT(R)(CT)(QM)
ACR Quality & Safety
November 11, 2015
Topics:

- Who is the ACR?
- What is ACR accreditation?
- Why get ACR accreditation?
- General accreditation processes
- Validation site surveys
- Diagnostic center of excellence (DICOE)
American College of Radiology

Professional Medical Organization founded in 1923
ACR is at the forefront of the radiology evolution

- ACR represents more than 37,000 diagnostic radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians, radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists and medical physicists.
- ACR improves, promotes and protects the practice of radiology to ensure the quality and safety of patient care.
ACR Core Purpose

- To serve patients and society by empowering members to advance the practice, science and professions of radiological care
ACR Core Values

- Leadership
- Integrity
- Quality
- Innovation
William T. Thorwarth, Jr., MD, FACR
ACR CEO
The College is organized around Five Pillars

- Advocacy
- Economics
- Quality & Safety
- Clinical Research
- Education
ACR Nationally Recognized Accreditation Programs: 

- Breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- Stereotactic Breast Biopsy
- Mammography
- Breast Ultrasound
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- Computed Tomography
- Nuclear Medicine
- Ultrasound
- Positron Emission Tomography
- Radiation Oncology
ACR’s accreditation history

- 1986 – Radiation Oncology
- 1987 - Mammography Accreditation
- 1992 – FDA adopts ACR’s mammography accreditation program
- 1995 – Ultrasound
- 1996 – Stereotactic Breast Biopsy
- 1996 – MRI
- 1998 – Breast Ultrasound
- 1999 – Nuclear Medicine
- 2002 – CT, radiography/fluoroscopy, and PET
- 2010 - CMS accepts ACR as accrediting organization for MIPPA & Breast MRI program launched
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODALITY</th>
<th>ACCREDITED FACILITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAMMOGRAPHY</td>
<td>8020</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>798</td>
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<tr>
<td>ULTRASOUND</td>
<td>8337</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuclear Medicine</td>
<td>4468</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breast Ultrasound</td>
<td>1516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stereotactic Breast Biopsy</td>
<td>1427</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breast MRI</td>
<td>1397</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radiation Oncology</td>
<td>646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,288</strong></td>
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</table>
Practice parameters & technical standards

- Educational tool designed to assist in providing appropriate radiologic care for patients.
- Not inflexible rules or requirements of practice
- Not intended, nor should they be used, to establish a legal standard of care.
The ACR Practice Parameters and Technical Standards help advance the science of radiology and improve the quality of service to patients. They promote the safe and effective use of diagnostic and therapeutic radiology by describing specific training, skills and techniques. Learn more »

The ACR Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards for 2013 are currently presented on the website.

The 2014 ACR Annual Meeting and Chapter Leadership Conference (AMCLC) had many interesting developments. First, the name “Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards” has been changed to “Practice Parameters and Technical Standards”. Second, the CT Lung Cancer Screening Parameter document was adopted as
ACR accreditation

- An educational process of self assessment and peer review
  - Modality based
  - Diagnostic image quality
  - Staff qualifications
  - Policies and protocols
  - Equipment specifications
  - Therapeutic treatment
Goals of ACR accreditation

- Set quality standards for imaging practices
- Provide recommendations for improvement
- Help sites improve quality of patient care
- Recognize quality imaging practices
Why seek ACR accreditation?

- Validate good practice through peer-review
- May document need for new or dedicated equipment, continuing education or qualified personnel
- Expert assessment of image quality
- Formal review may be used to meet criteria of state government, federal government or third party payers
MIPPA

- Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) passed July 2008
- Providers of advanced diagnostic imaging services (ADIS) that bill under Part B of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule must be accredited by January 1, 2012 to receive payment for the technical component of these services
- Beginning January 1, 2012, payment will only be made if your facility is fully accredited
Accreditation Process
How to prepare for accreditation
Available resources

Path to Quality Improvement

- Dedicated Accreditation webpage
  www.accreditation.org

- Quality & Safety
  - Practice Parameters/
    Technical Standards
  - QC manuals
  - Education catalog
Available resources

- ACR staff
  - Healthcare professionals
  - Certified technologists & rad therapist
- Physicians and physicists
  - Accreditation committees
  - Reviewers
GETTING STARTED

The CT Accreditation Program involves submission of clinical and phantom images, dose measurements and scanning protocols. Accreditation is required for providers that bill for CT under part B of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.

01 | Program Requirements

Before applying for accreditation, please review the documents below for a summary of the accreditation process and the modality-specific program requirements:

- Diagnostic Modality Accreditation Program Overview
- CT Accreditation Program Requirements Updated 7-31-15
- Additional Program Requirements for Medical Physicists/MR Scientists
- Instructions for Electronic Image Submission

Electronic image submission is now available for CT facilities. When completing the accreditation application, select electronic for the type of submission. This new option will expedite image review.

02 | Frequently Asked Questions

- CT Accreditation Program FAQ Updated 8-20-15
- General Accreditation FAQ
03 | **Register/Log In**

*First-time applicants for CT accreditation:* Use the first link below to register with the online accreditation system. *Existing users:* If you already have an account, please log in to access your facility records. If the login person has changed, please use the second link below or contact ctaccred@acr.org.

- Access the online accreditation system
- Change user login

04 | **Gather Data**

Use these documents and forms to gather data for the online testing package before sending images for review. These forms should not be submitted to the ACR for accreditation.

- CT Accreditation Program Testing Instructions New 7-27-15
- Quality Assurance Questionnaire
- Clinical Test Image Data Form
- DesAcc Order Form
- Phantom Order Form Updated 12-16-14
- CTAP Phantom Data/Dose Forms
- 2012 CT Quality Control Manual
- Daily Technologist QC Form
- Visual Checklist Form Updated 11-18-13
- Laser Printer QC Form
- CT Annual System Performance Evaluation Summary Form Updated 8-31-15

05 | **Prepare for Site Visits**

All outpatient facility providers of CT, MRI, breast MRI, nuclear medicine, and PET exams that bill under Part B of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule must be accredited in order to receive payment for the technical component of these services. The ACR will perform unannounced site surveys to validate compliance with accreditation criteria. We strongly advise sites to use the documents below to gather and organize information for these site surveys.

- Toolkit for Practice Sites Updated 8-5-15
- CME/Continuing Experience Record for Physicians
- CME/CEU Record for Medical Physicists/MR Scientists
- CEU Record for Technologists
Lead technologist should be account "login"!
ACRedit database

• Start by reading the Home page

• Read each screen completely before continuing to the next

• Pay ATTENTION to everything in RED

• Extra information by clicking on the icon
Welcome to the American College of Radiology (ACR) online accreditation system. Please read the brief descriptions below to become familiar with the functions on each page of this application. You may access the various pages by clicking on the links below or by clicking on the links at the top of this page. At any time you may log out of the application and finish it later.

In the Application and Testing Package there is a left navigation menu with a list of all forms. A green checkmark means that the form is complete. A red X means that the form is incomplete. You can navigate to each form from the left menu by clicking on the form title.

Please note that you must complete all information on the page and click "Next" prior to logging out or moving to another screen in order for that page to be saved.

My Applications

A listing of all draft and submitted applications may be viewed here. Use this page to apply for a new facility, edit draft applications or print a copy of a submitted application.

My Testing Packages

A listing of all draft and submitted testing packages may be viewed here. Use this page to complete the testing package for each location for which you have submitted an application. You may also edit draft testing packages or print a copy of a submitted testing package from this page.
Online application

- Application includes:
  - Facility information
  - Modality information
  - CMS information
    - Medicare ID number
    - National provider identifier
    - EIN
  - Payment options
CMS Information for MIPPA

Please note, the CMS Information will be saved immediately after clicking the Next button. Providing incorrect information could result in denial of reimbursement.

Effective Jan. 1 2012, all providers that bill the technical component for MRI (including breast MRI), CT, PET and nuclear medicine under part B of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule must be accredited in order to receive reimbursement from Medicare. The accreditation requirements do not affect hospitals.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has selected the American College of Radiology (ACR) as a designated accrediting organization for medical imaging facilities, able to satisfy all accreditation requirements for providers of advanced medical imaging mandated by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA). Under MIPPA, the ACR must share accreditation information with CMS. In order to ensure that your facility continues to receive reimbursement after January 1, 2012, please complete the information below.

Does this facility location bill for MRI (including breast MRI), CT, PET and/or nuclear medicine under part B of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule?

Please note: If you are unsure, please verify this information with your billing service before completing this information. Incorrect responses could affect reimbursement.

EIN:

Please provide the 9-digit tax ID number/EIN for the entity that bills for the technical component under part B of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.

[Input Field]

Please provide the National Provider Identifier for the facility which bills the technical component under part B of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Please note that the NPI is a 10-digit number and is NOT the same as the tax ID/EIN.

[Input Field]
Facility and modality information

- **Facility information**
  - Facility name and address
  - Facility supervising physician
  - Mailing address
  - Peer review
  - Other accredited modalities

- **Modality information**
  - Modality name
  - Modality supervising physician
  - Number of units
  - Unit specific information
Transfer of Images and Data
Three choices to upload images!

1. Web client – choose images
2. Windows client – choose folders
3. Windows client – connect to your PACS
Web Client

1. Choose images directly through ACRedit
2. No software downloads
3. Can view thumbnail images of what you’ve uploaded
4. Print patient summary
1. Small download/install
2. Choose entire folders of images
3. Can view full images using ClearCanvas DICOM viewer
4. See your images just as our reviewers see them
5. Print patient summary
Upload Images

Sending images electronically is safe and secure. Electronic submissions are protected from unauthorized access and ACR has taken all measures to comply with federal privacy legislation.

Choose the ACRedit Web Client to select image files for upload via an online interface (no software download or installation needed). Please note that this option will allow you to select individual images within a folder, but not entire folders of images.

© ACRedit Web Client

Choose the TRIAD Windows Client to select image files and/or folders for upload. Please note that this option requires installation of the TRIAD software and may require the assistance of your IT department. However, this option provides the flexibility to upload entire folders of images and/or the ability to select files directly from your PACS.

© TRIAD Windows Client
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Choose the TRiAD Windows Client to select image files and/or folders for upload. Please note that this option requires installation of the TRiAD software and may require the assistance of your IT department. However, this option provides the flexibility to upload entire folders of images and/or the ability to select files directly from your PACS.

Please click “Image Upload Summary” to print the summary of the images that you have uploaded before submitting the testing package to ACR.

### ACRedit Upload Web Client

**Instructions:**

A. Click the “Select Images” button next to an examination name to upload images for that examination. A new window will pop up.
B. Click the “Step 1: Choose Files for Upload” button to open a Windows explorer so you can choose your files to upload. If your image files are in several folders, you will need to repeat this step multiple times. If you would like to create new folders to upload your images in different folders, you may do that by clicking on the “add folder” icon in the upper left of the window.
C. When you have chosen all the files you want to upload, click on the “Step 2: Finish and Close Window” button in the lower right corner of the window.
D. Check the boxes attesting to the fact that you have uploaded all applicable files for the examination.
E. Click on “Image Upload Summary” to print a summary of your uploaded files for your records before submitting your testing package.

Please note that you may repeat these steps as many times as you need to add image files to each examination.

### Upload Images

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Choose Images for upload</th>
<th>Total Number of Files</th>
<th>Total File Size</th>
<th>By checking this box, I attest that I have uploaded all applicable files for this examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Head</td>
<td>Select Images</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.16MB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Pulmonary Emboli</td>
<td>Select Images</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Abdomen</td>
<td>Select Images</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phantom</td>
<td>Select Images</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Powered By TRiAD

American College of Radiology
Upload Images

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© TRIAD Windows Client

Please click 'Image Upload Summary' to print the summary of the images that you have uploaded before submitting the testing package to ACR.

TRIAD Windows Client

Instructions:

- Please Click TRIAD Windows Client to download and install TRIAD windows Client.
- Once the installation is completed, Click All Programs->American College of Radiology->Triad Windows Client to launch TRIAD Windows Client.

OR

- If you have already installed TRIAD Windows Client, Click All Programs->American College of Radiology->Triad Windows Client to launch TRIAD Windows Client.

Note: You can also access ACRedit submit pages from TRIAD Windows Client.
Where are the images stored?

- TRIAD central server
  - Secured server
  - ACR supported
  - Files encrypted
Why electronic image submission?

- Cuts cost of shipping
- Shortens turn around times
TRIAD™ is a standards-based system built by the ACR to facilitate the transmission of imaging and data.

- Upload from PACS

For additional information and resources please visit the TRIAD web site:

http://triadhelp.acr.org/Accreditation.aspx

- Wrong format submitted (JPEG vs. DICOM)

TRIAD™ overcomes the challenges of image submission with easy-to-use tools and online services that reduce costs and streamline the process:

- Cuts costs associated with burning and shipping CDs
- Reduces delays in shipping images among facilities, the ACR and reviewers
- Mitigates the risk of losing images
- Ensures compliance with HIPAA regulations throughout the process

Two Ways to Submit Images

TRIAD™ users can electronically submit their images in two ways:
Accreditation FAQ’s

Contact Us

Tech Support is available from Monday to Friday between 8am - 5pm EST.

Contact By Phone:
703.930.9858

Contact By Email:
Triad-Support@acr.org

Accreditation

In the past, facilities submitting images to ACR for accreditation experienced numerous technical challenges using CDs:

- Variation in embedded viewers
- Problems burning images to CDs (sometimes requiring the use of third-party services)
- Translation problems (scanner to PACS)
- Wrong format submitted (JPEG vs. DICOM)

TRIAD™ overcomes the challenges of image submission with easy-to-use tools and online services that reduce costs and streamline the process:

- Cuts costs associated with burning and shipping CDs
- Reduces delays in shipping images among facilities, the ACR and reviewers
- Mitigates the risk of losing images

Two Ways to Submit Images

TRIAD™ users can electronically submit their images in two ways:

ACRedit Web Client

- No software installation required
- Thumbnail views (no full-size images)
- Users can select files only, no folders of images
- Cannot connect with PACS
Timeline

- Sites have 45 days to complete and submit testing materials
- Extensions considered - case by case
Accreditation review

- Materials submitted for accreditation review are sent to volunteer reviewers
- Clinical images
  - 2 radiologist reviewers
- Phantom images
  - 1 or 2 physicist reviewers
Achieving accreditation

- Pass/Fail determined
- All images/unit must pass
- Accreditation granted
- Certificate issued
- Accreditation granted for 3 years
- Final report (with link) issued to Supervising Physician & Administrator
- Technologist notified
American College of Radiology

Computed Tomography Services of

CT Diagnostic Center
4800 Happy Town Boulevard
Anytown, USA 12345

were surveyed by the Committee on Computed Tomography Accreditation of the Commission on Quality and Safety

The following unit was approved

Siemens SENSATION 2014

For
Adult & Pediatric Patients
Head/Neck, Chest, Abdomen

Accredited from:

May 29, 2015 through May 29, 2018
Marketing tools for you:

- Sample Press Release
- Accreditation Seal
- Downloadable seal for stationery, prescription pads, etc
- Web site listing www.acr.org
Accredited Facility Search

Use the search form below to find imaging facilities accredited by the American College of Radiology.
Facilities: To verify the accreditation status of specific units within your imaging facility, please call 1-800-770-0145.

Find by:
- ZIP/CITY

ZIP/City:

Within:
- 50 Miles

Modality:
- Computed Tomography

Designation:
- Select -

Search

Download a list of all ACR-accredited facilities

This list covers all modalities and includes facilities whose applications for accreditation are still under review. It provides patients, providers, and third-party payers with information critical to selecting appropriate facilities for imaging needs. It is not intended as nor should this list be used for marketing or research purposes.
Download a list of all ACR-accredited facilities

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First deficiency:
• Appeal
• Withdraw module/isotope
• Repeat

Second deficiency:
• Appeal
• Reinstate – CAP & retest

Fail reinstate:
• Accreditation consultation
• CAP
• Pre-test images
• Reinstate
Compliance Monitoring After Accreditation Granted

- Validation site surveys
Validation site survey (VSS)

- If a facility bills under Medicare Part B, they must comply with these new requirements, regardless of where the service is provided (e.g., outpatient office, hospital, etc.)

- A facility that bills under Part B is subject to an unannounced site visit.
Unannounced validation site surveys (VSS)

- The ACR conducts validation site surveys on accredited facilities to monitor compliance with accreditation standards and to meet the requirements of MIPPA.

- Each accredited facility will go through a site visit within the three year accreditation period.
Validation site surveys

- Unannounced
- Site’s can be visited by an ACR representative and/or CMS at any time during 3 year accreditation period
- Toolkit designed to assist gathering and maintaining documentation that is required for accreditation
- Toolkit can also be used to prepare pre-accreditation and/or post-accreditation on-site surveys
How to prepare for site visits

05 | Prepare for Site Visits

All outpatient facility providers of CT, MRI, breast MRI, nuclear medicine, and PET exams that bill under Part B of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule must be accredited in order to receive payment for the technical component of these services. The ACR will perform unannounced site surveys to validate compliance with accreditation criteria. We strongly advise sites to use the documents below to gather and organize information for these site surveys.

- Toolkit for Practice Sites Updated 8-5-15
- CME/Continuing Experience Record for Physicians
- CME/CEU Record for Medical Physicists/MR Scientists
- CEU Record for Technologists
ACR Accreditation
Facility Tool Kit

The ACR will be performing **unannounced** validation site surveys as part of the accreditation process. This toolkit is designed to assist you in gathering and maintaining the documentation that is required for accreditation and will be reviewed during the survey. It is recommended you create a binder to keep this information in one place. Facilities will be surveyed with unannounced visits by representatives of the ACR or CMS at any time during the 3-year accreditation period.

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<td>Tab 2</td>
<td>Personnel documentation for Physicians</td>
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<td>Tab 3</td>
<td>Personnel documentation for Medical Physicists/MR Scientists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tab 4</td>
<td>Personnel documentation for Technologists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tab 5</td>
<td>- Annual Physics Survey/Performance Evaluation Checklist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tech QC checklist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- NRC/State Inspection Report Checklist (if applicable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tab 6</td>
<td>Policy and procedures review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tab 7</td>
<td>Physician peer review program evaluation</td>
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<td>Tab 8</td>
<td>Patient report evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tab 9</td>
<td>Image labeling evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tab 10</td>
<td>Resources</td>
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</table>
Outcomes

Validation Site Surveys Performed

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Modalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1210</td>
<td>2399</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcomes (Through 2014)
Other items found

- Information not on site, held at main office
- Units not accredited
- Units that have been removed from service
- Not having access to QC
- Closed facilities
Diagnostic Center of Excellence

The shape of medical imaging excellence today.

Instantly announce that your medical imaging team delivers outstanding outcomes in a wide array of procedures, performance areas, and quality control measures.
Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence (DICOE)

- Provides a comprehensive assessment of the entire medical imaging enterprise including structure and outcomes
DICOE: basic eligibility

- ACR accreditation in all modalities provided
- Dose Index Registry® (DIR) and General Radiology Improvement Database (GRID) participation
- Image Gently® and Image Wisely® pledges
- Site survey
DICOE: benefits

- Comprehensive assessment of the medical imaging facility, including structure and outcomes
- Participation in ACR registries at no cost
- Ongoing process for self-assessment
- Recognition that distinguishes your facility to providers, payers, patients and administrators
- Three-year status
- Customizable materials for local public relations and marketing
Areas of assessment

- Governance
- Personnel
- Facility organization and management
- Physical environment
- Equipment and IT infrastructure
- Radiation and general safety
- Quality management
- Policies and procedures
- Patient rights
- Medical records
Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence

Is your medical imaging getting the recognition it deserves?

Your team can now receive well-deserved recognition for outstanding diagnostic imaging and patient care. The ACR Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence™ achievement is a one-of-a-kind new program that takes your department or practice to the next level of imaging efficiency, safety and quality care.

Reach for the pinnacle of medical imaging care:

General inquiry and contact email: DICOE@acr.org

Learn more: 1.800.770.0145, ext. 4976

Program Requirements

- Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence Program Requirements

Benefits

- Comprehensive assessment of the medical imaging facility, including structure and outcomes
- Participation in ACR registries at no cost
- Ongoing process for self-assessment
- Recognition that distinguishes your facility to providers, payers, patients and administrators
- Three-year status
- Customizable materials for local public relations and marketing
Quality & Safety

Improving the quality and safety of patient care is a core element of the ACR mission. The College takes a proactive and aggressive approach on key issues impacting radiology.

Accreditation

The ACR has accredited more than 35,000 facilities in 10 imaging modalities. We offer programs in all modalities mandated for accreditation by law. Our application process has cut approval time in half, with evaluation typically completed within 90 days of image submission.

Diagnostic Imaging Centers of Excellence

The ACR Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence™ achievement is a new program that takes your department or practice to the next level of imaging efficiency, safety and quality care.

QUALITY CARE NEWS

November 13, 2014
ACR Suggestions for Preparedness and Implementation of Imaging in Biocontainment Situations

May 16, 2014
The Joint Commission Extends July 2014 Implementing Imaging Standards

February 22, 2016
BMJ Article on Breast Screening: Effectiveness Incrassably Flawed and Misleading

View the News

QUALITY & SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Sign up to receive our new e-newsletter and we’ll send you Quality & Safety updates every quarter.

View latest issue

Sign Up Now
Inside Quality & Safety eNews

Our new quarterly newsletter—Inside Quality & Safety—is focused on providing information, expertise and resources to help you improve your quality of care.

Inside Quality & Safety - December 2013

In this issue, learn about a new PQRS reporting option, digital access to ACR Appropriateness Criteria® and the upcoming Annual Conference on Quality & Safety in February 2014.

Inside Quality & Safety - September 2013

A new Mammography Saves Lives™ campaign urging women to begin getting annual mammograms at age 40 and new quality control requirements for ultrasound and breast ultrasound accreditation highlight this issue.

Inside Quality & Safety - June 2013

The new Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence program and Imaging 3.0™ are highlighted in this issue.
Accreditation contact information

- American College of Radiology
- 1891 Preston White Drive
- Reston, VA 20191

- Accreditation Hotline: 800-770-0145
- www.acr.org