

September 12, 2018

Dear ORVC Members,

There has been a significant increase in cardiac radionuclide imaging over the past decade, leading to a corresponding increase in scrutiny from Federal and private health plans questioning the necessity of these tests. In response to efforts by third-party payers to limit all types of cardiovascular imaging studies, the American College of Cardiology Foundation, in conjunction with other professional societies, developed appropriate use criteria.

https://www.intersocietal.org/nuclear/forms/Understanding_AUC_JNMT2012.pdf

Building on this, the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) released updates to Nuclear Medicine standards, with emphasis on PET imaging. The new standards were effective in March of last year, but updated since then. The IAC began more than 25 years ago with the inception of the first of the IAC accreditation divisions, IAC Vascular Testing, formerly the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL) in 1991. From this first accrediting body, the IAC has continued its path of developing standards and methods for the evaluation of the quality of care delivered. Holding true to its original mission, the IAC's scope has expanded to provide similar peer review processes for multiple imaging modalities within the medical community. A division was created in 1996 for the accreditation of echocardiography, in 1997 for the accreditation of nuclear cardiology, general nuclear medicine and PET, in 2000 for the accreditation of MRI, and in 2006 for the accreditation of CT.

As an accreditation organization, IAC Nuclear/PET is committed to maintaining a program that balances the changing needs of the nuclear cardiology, nuclear medicine and PET community and the general public by influencing the quality of patient care provided. [The IAC Standards and Guidelines for Nuclear/PET Accreditation](#) are the most important component of that commitment. Composed by physicians and technologists from the [IAC sponsoring organizations](#), the Standards are reviewed periodically by the Board of Directors and revised as needed. One of these sponsoring organizations is the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. The current Secretary of the IAC is an AAPM member; Jennifer R. Obie Stickel, Ph.D., DABR, from Golden, CO. As a component of the accreditation process, the IAC Nuclear/PET Board of Directors preliminarily approved the proposed Standards which were posted to the IAC Nuclear/PET website for a 60-day public comment period from April 1 to June 1, 2016. Following careful review and consideration of the comments received, the Board of Directors voted final approval of the Standards: [The IAC Standards and Guidelines for Nuclear/PET Accreditation](#).

Standards that are highlighted are major content changes that were made as part of the September 15, 2016 revision. These Standards will become effective on March 15, 2017. Facilities applying for accreditation after March 15, 2017 must comply with these new highlighted Standards. Some of the changes made are a clarification or explanation of the previous Standards, however, in several instances, the requirements have been modified. Key modifications include:

- Technical Staff - The Standard previously titled nuclear medicine technologist(s) is now technical staff in all references.
- General Protocol Guidelines - A substantial change to the IAC Nuclear/PET Standards regarding the required administered radiopharmaceutical dose ranges and corresponding radiation effective doses for myocardial perfusion imaging was made. To read the background on this change, please visit [Intersocietal.org/nuclear/main/dose.htm](https://www.intersocietal.org/nuclear/main/dose.htm).

- Part D: Therapy Procedures - The majority of the new Part D section already existed in the previous Standards, however, these requirements were moved to a new section for Therapy Protocols and Performance only.

For a summary of all the revisions made to the Nuclear/PET Standards, please visit intersocietal.org/nuclear/standards/IACNuclearPETStandards2016_SummaryofChanges.pdf.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to seeing you all in Cincinnati on November 2nd and 3rd for the ORVC Fall Symposium. Remember, if you have not yet registered to attend, you may do so at http://chapter.aapm.org/orv/meetings/next_meeting.html.

Sincerely,

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Representative Board Member from ORVC

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