



Advisory Statement A20/01

Introduction of Diagnostic Reference Levels for image guided and interventional procedures: Coronary angiography

Purpose

To provide information about the introduction of adult diagnostic reference levels (DRLs) for coronary angiography and clarify the requirements for annually comparing facility reference levels to these DRLs.

Issue

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) is currently undertaking a survey of image guided interventional procedures to determine DRLs for a number of common interventional and diagnostic angiography or fluoroscopic procedures. While this survey is still ongoing, ARPANSA has established adult diagnostic coronary angiography DRLs.

Where a coronary angiography service attracts a Medicare benefit, it is only those coronary angiography items listed in the [Diagnostic Imaging Services Table](#) (DIST) that fall within the scope of the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (DIAS) and must be rendered from an accredited site.

The coronary angiography items listed in the DIST to which the new DRLs apply are those items in Subgroup I3, angiography. The DIAS accreditation arrangements do not extend to items listed in the [General Medical Services Table](#) (GMST), including coronary angiography services listed in the GMST. Only those service providers that provide coronary angiography services listed in Subgroup I3 of the DIST are required to adhere to the new coronary angiography DRLs for the purposes of DIAS accreditation.

The [coronary angiography DRLs are published on the ARPANSA website](#) and came into effect on 31 March 2020.

Requirements

[Standard 3.2 Optimised Radiation Technique Charts Standard](#) of the DIAS requires a practice providing services which use ionising radiation to establish a program to ensure that radiation doses administered to patients are:

- annually compared with DRLs for diagnostic imaging procedures for which DRLs have been established in Australia, and
- if DRLs are consistently exceeded, a review is undertaken to determine whether radiation protection has been optimised.

For the purposes of the DIAS, practices providing coronary angiography services listed in Subgroup I3 of the DIST are not required to submit audit records relating to the new DRLs until **31 March 2021**.

After 31 March 2021, as part of an application for accreditation (including renewal of accreditation), accreditors require evidence that policies for undertaking a DRL comparison have been updated and that coronary angiography audits conducted after this date have been compared against the new DRLs.

In addition to the accreditation requirements of the DIAS, all practices using ionising radiation equipment, including angiography equipment, must comply with radiation safety regulatory requirements applicable in the state or territory in which the equipment is used.

For more information

Further [information about the coronary angiography DRLs can be found on the ARPANSA website](#). Enquiries relating to the calculation of DRLs and the operation of the National Diagnostic Reference Level should be directed to ARPANSA by calling 1800 033 972 or by emailing ndrld@arpansa.gov.au.

Additional [information about ARPANSA's image guided interventional procedures survey](#) can be found online.

Practices should also refer to the [DIAS User Guide for Practices Applying for Accreditation for clarifying information](#) about the evidentiary requirements for Standard 3.2, and contact their accreditor for further information and advice.

Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme Advisory Statement A20/01

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| Information in this statement applies to | DIAS Accreditors Providers of Medicare-funded coronary angiography services listed in the <i>Health Insurance (Diagnostic Imaging Services Table) 2020</i> . |
| Relevant standard | Standard 3.2, Optimised Radiation Technique Charts |
| Prepared by | Secretariat, Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee |
| Contact details | Phone: 02 6289 8859 Email: dias@health.gov.au |
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| Links to other statements or advisory documents | User Guide for Practices Applying for Accreditation |
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