



Advisory Statement A18/04

Introduction of Revised Diagnostic Reference Levels for Computed Tomography

Purpose

To provide information about adult diagnostic reference levels (DRLs) for computed tomography and clarify the requirements for annually comparing facility reference levels to the most current DRLs.

Issue

In 2015 the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) established computed tomography DRLs for six anatomical regions. Following a review of these DRLs by a Liaison Panel comprising representatives from key professional groups, ARPANSA published revised computed tomography DRLs for eight anatomical regions, namely head, cervical spine, soft-tissue neck, chest, abdomen-pelvis, kidney-ureter-bladder, chest-abdomen-pelvis, and lumbar spine.

The DRLs are published on the ARPANSA website and came into effect on **1 July 2018**.

Requirements

[Standard 3.2 Optimised Radiation Technique Charts Standard](#), of the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (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 computed tomography services were not required to submit audit records relating to the new DRLs until **1 January 2019**.

From **1 January 2019**, 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 computed tomography audits conducted after this date have been compared against the new DRLs.

For more information

Further [information about the 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

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 A18/04

Title	Introduction of Revised Diagnostic Reference Levels for Computed Tomography
Version	Version 2
Date of publication	June 2018
Replaces	Version 1
Status	Active
Compliance	Mandatory
Approved by	Department of Health based on recommendations from the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee
Last review date	May 2020
Next review date	May 2022
Information in this statement applies to	DIAS Accreditors Providers of Medicare-funded diagnostic imaging services
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
Trim reference	D20-1435912
Links to other statements or advisory documents	User Guide for Practices Applying for Accreditation
Notes (if applicable)	N/A