



Advisory Statement A21/01

Revised Diagnostic Reference Levels for Selected Computed Tomography Scans

Purpose

To provide information about revisions to the adult diagnostic reference levels (DRLs) for computed tomography (CT) for selected scan regions.

Issue

In 2018 the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) published revised adult CT DRLs.

This included an interim adult DRL for the new kidney-ureter-bladder scan region and DRLs for the cervical spine and soft-tissue neck scan regions derived from analysis of data for the pre-existing neck scan region.

After reviewing data collected in the 2019 calendar year, ARPANSA has updated the DRLs for these three scan types. The revised DRLs are published on the ARPANSA website.

There will be a 6 month phase in period with practices providing these scan types required to submit audit records relating to the new revised DRLs from **1 October 2021**.

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 are required to submit audit records relating to the DRLs published on the ARPANSA website.

From **1 October 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 computed tomography audits conducted after this date have been compared against all current, established 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 Service 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.

Additionally, practices can refer to Advisory Statement 18/04 for advice about the eight adult CT DRLs published by ARPANSA in 2018. This [Advisory Statement](#) is available on the DIAS Advisory Committee webpage on the Department of Health's website.

Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme Advisory Statement A21/01

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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
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Links to other statements or advisory documents	User Guide for Practices Applying for Accreditation
Notes (if applicable)	N/A