



National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia



National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards

About NATA

Established in 1947, NATA is the world's first and most experienced laboratory accreditation body. NATA's primary role is to serve the national and public interest by facilitating the provision of a reliable testing, calibration, measurement and inspection infrastructure to government, industry and the wider community.

NATA is the national authority for the accreditation of laboratories and reference materials producers and a peak authority for inspection bodies and proficiency testing scheme providers.

NATA currently operates accreditation programs in more than 15 different fields and programs against international, industry and government standards.



Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

The National Health Reform Act 2011 established the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission), and included within its functions formulation of model national schemes accrediting health service organisations.

The Australian Health Services Safety and Quality Accreditation (AHSSQA) Scheme and the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards were produced under the direction of the Commission to improve the safety and quality of health service organisations within Australia.

In April 2014 NATA was granted approval as an accrediting agency under the AHSSQA Scheme and will offer accreditation against the NSQHS Standards to complement NATA's current health programs.

NATA's current health accreditation programs

NATA's current health programs utilise voluntary technical assessors through a peer review process and operate on a four yearly assessment cycle. Assessments are conducted against the following Standards in conjunction with the professional bodies governing them:

Pathology

This is a joint program with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) against ISO 15189 - Medical laboratories - Requirements for quality and competence and NPAAC (National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council) standards.

Medical Imaging

This is joint program with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) against RANZCR Standards of Practice for Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology.

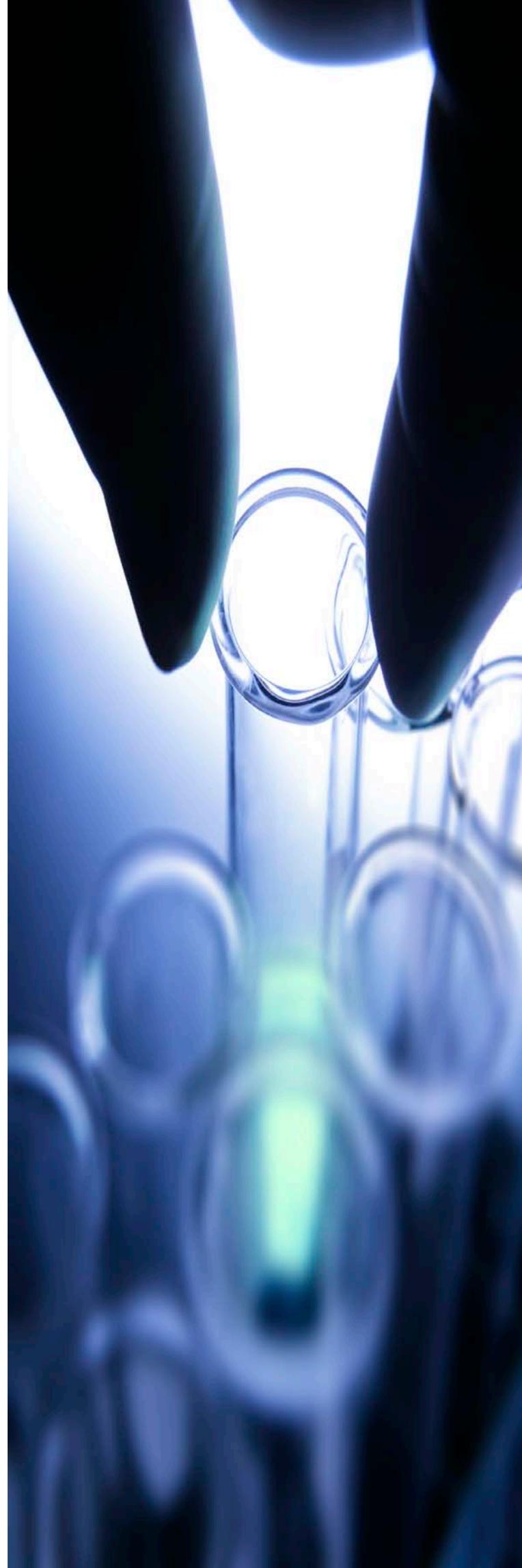
Sleep Disorders Services

This is a joint program with the Australasian Sleep Association (ASA) against the ASA Standard for Sleep Disorders Services.

Diagnostic Imaging

NATA is one of three approved accreditors under the mandatory Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme against the DIAS Practice Accreditation Standards.

This process is a desk top review by NATA staff on a four yearly assessment cycle.



NSQHS Standards

Background

The Commission developed the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards to improve the quality of health service provision in Australia. The Standards provide a nationally consistent statement of the level of care consumers should be able to expect from health services. The Standards are available for download directly from the Commission website at www.safetyandquality.gov.au.

The State and Territory jurisdictions are responsible for determining the accreditation expectation of various Health Service Organisations (HSOs). You will need to check with your local Health Department to determine which health services are required to be accredited to the NSQHS Standards. Accreditation may be applicable to the following:

- Public Hospitals
- Private Hospitals
- Day Procedures Centres
- Dental Services
- Community Based Health Services
- Mental Health Services
- Stand Alone Sleep Disorders Services

All services provided within these Organisations are required to comply with the NSQHS Standards (Including Pathology Laboratories and associated collection services, Imaging, Sleep Disorders Services and other Allied Health Services when located within these HSOs).



NSQHS Standards

Standards

There are 10 NSQHS Standards focusing on areas that are essential to drive the implementation and use of safety and quality systems:



Standard 1. Governance for Safety and Quality in Health Service Organisations - which describes the quality framework required for health service organisations to implement safe systems



Standard 2. Partnering with Consumers - which describes the systems and strategies to create a consumer-centred health system by including consumers in the development and design of quality healthcare



Standard 3. Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infections - which describes the systems and strategies to prevent infection of patients within the healthcare system and to manage infections effectively when they occur to minimise the consequences



Standard 4. Medication Safety - which describes the systems and strategies to ensure clinicians safely prescribe, dispense and administer appropriate medicines to informed patients



Standard 5. Patient Identification and Procedure Matching - which describes the systems and strategies to identify patients and correctly match their identity with the correct treatment



Standard 6. Clinical Handover - which describes the systems and strategies for effective clinical communication whenever accountability and responsibility for a patient's care is transferred



Standard 7. Blood and Blood Products - which describes the systems and strategies for the safe, effective and appropriate management of blood and blood products so the patients receiving blood are safe



Standard 8. Preventing and Managing Pressure Injuries - which describes the systems and strategies to prevent patients developing pressure injuries and best practice management when pressure injuries occur



Standard 9. Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration in Acute Health Care - which describes the systems and processes to be implemented by health service organisations to respond effectively to patients when their clinical condition deteriorates



Standard 10. Preventing Falls and Harm from Falls - which describes the systems and strategies to reduce the incidence of patient falls in health service organisations and best practice management when falls do occur

Assessment overview

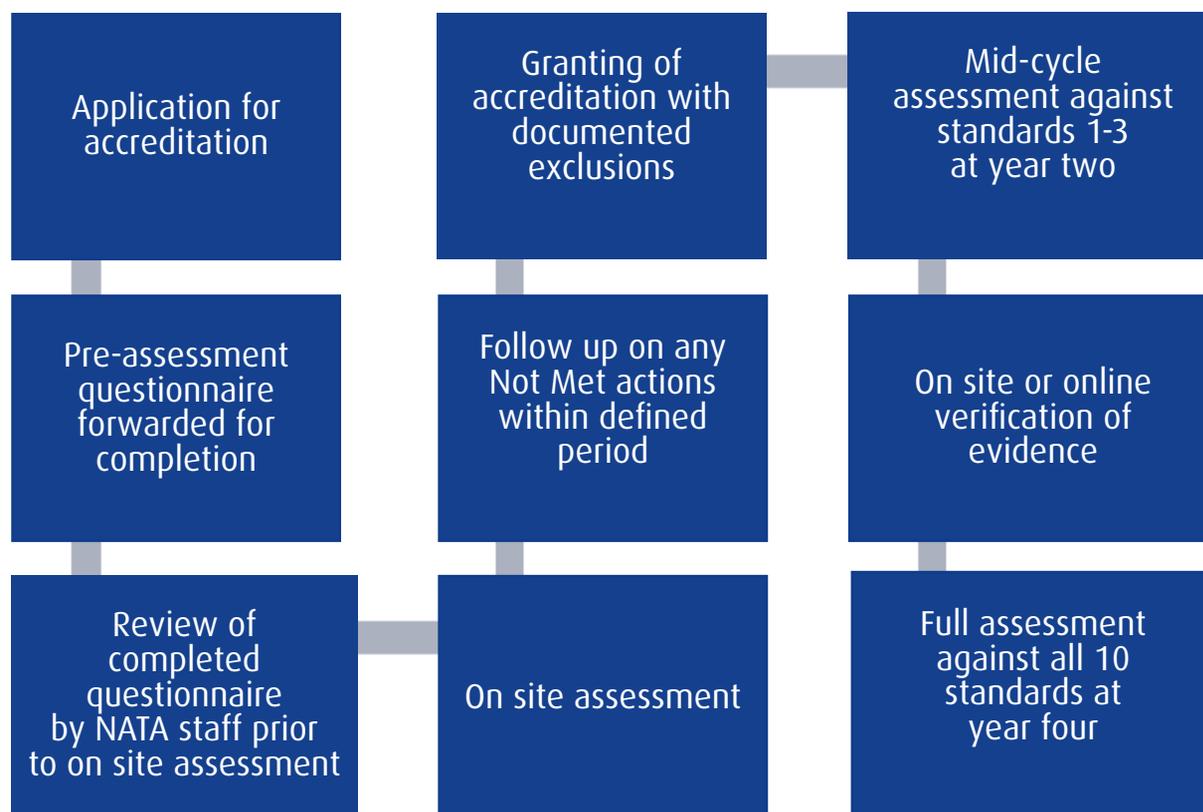
Assessments against the NSQHS Standards are split into two assessment types:

- a full assessment against all 10 Standards, and
- a mid cycle assessment against Standards one to three

NATA will operate a four yearly cycle in line with the current accreditation cycles of its other accreditation programs in the health sector.

A full assessment will be conducted on site against all 256 action items.

Where an action is deemed not applicable by the HSO, an application to consider non-applicability must be applied for prior to an assessment.



Publication of information

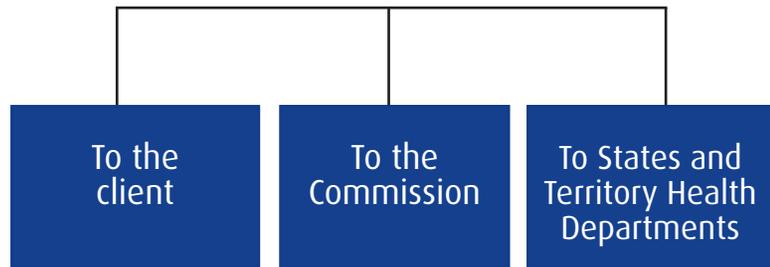
After accreditation is granted, a certificate will be issued to the organisation describing the scope of the activities assessed and detailing accreditation to the National Safety and Quality in Healthcare Service Standards with documented exclusions.

The NATA website will include this information along with contact details of the organisation.

Reporting obligations

NATA as an approved accrediting agency has reporting obligations to both State and Territory Health Departments and the Commission.

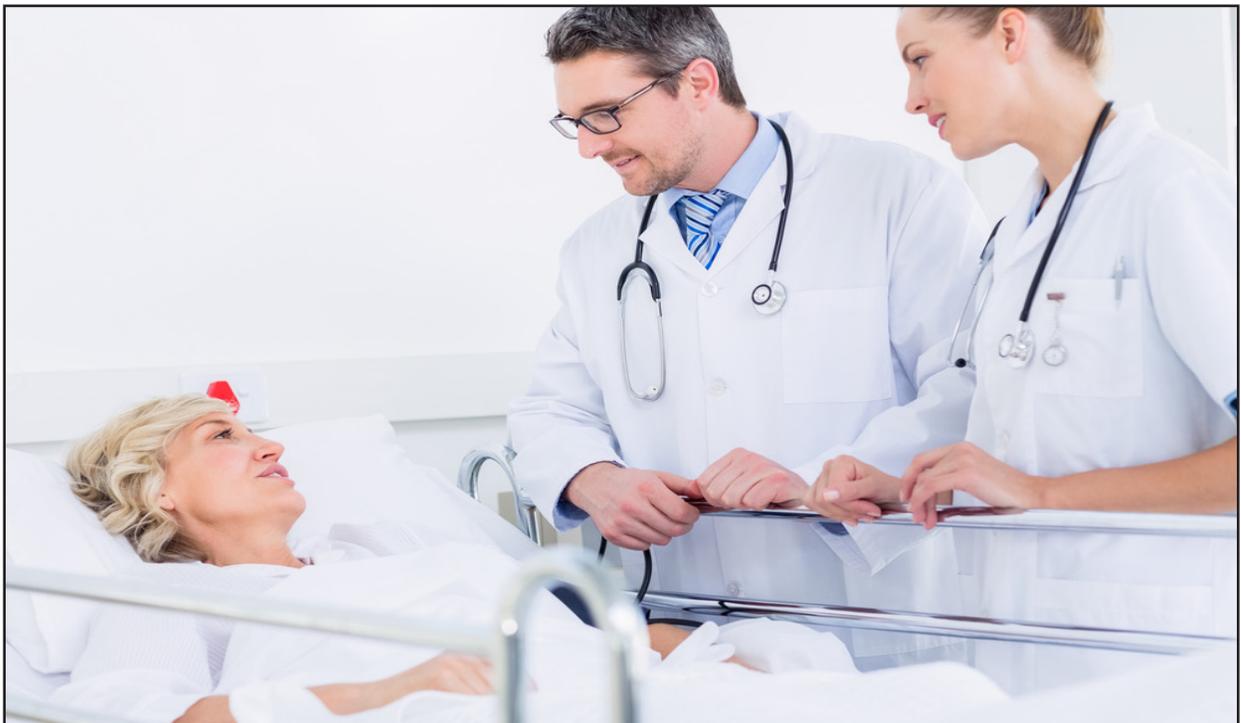
Reporting obligations



Privacy

NATA respects and upholds the rights of individuals to privacy protection under the Australian Privacy Principles contained in the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012.

A copy of NATA's Privacy Policy (Policy Circular 7) can be obtained from the NATA website (www.nata.com.au) or by contacting one of the NATA offices. This policy describes how NATA manages the personal information we hold.



Contact us

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