



# ASA/NATA Sleep Disorders Services

An accreditation process for sleep services has been available since 1997 to foster excellence in the approach to management of sleep disorders. The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) initially managed the program, and the Australasian Sleep Association (ASA) took over governance of this process in July 2009.

The ASA began working with NATA to update the program, with the aim that NATA would take over administration of the program, to be known as the ASA/NATA Sleep Disorders Services (SDS) Accreditation Program.

In 2012, the ASA Standards were amended to include the principles from the international standard ISO 15189 (2007) *Medical laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence* and were renamed *ASA Standard for Sleep Disorders Services*. The inclusion of the ISO requirements to the ASA standards brings sleep disorders services accreditation on par with international standards.

In 2016, the ASA Standard was reviewed in line with the latest version of ISO 15189 (2012). Changes were also made following feedback from accredited sleep services. Sleep Disorders Services will be assessed against the new version of the ASA Standard (2016) from 1 January 2017.

The Sleep Disorders Services Accreditation Program is run jointly between NATA and the ASA, and a Sleep Disorders Services Accreditation Advisory Committee (SDSAAC) oversees the program.

The accreditation program is based on a four-year cycle with a surveillance activity midway through the cycle and a full re-assessment at four years. The assessments involve peer review and the assessment teams include at least one sleep physician, one sleep technologist and a NATA Lead Assessor.

The program operates on a fee for service basis.

Accreditation allows services to demonstrate technical competence in all study types offered as well as quality measures that mitigate and promote improvement.

ASA/NATA's Sleep Disorders Services Program can be tailored to suit individual organisational and geographical needs, while still ensuring the service meets recognised technical standards.

More information on NATA's Sleep Disorders Services Accreditation Program for sleep services can be obtained by visiting the NATA website [www.nata.com.au](http://www.nata.com.au) or contacting NATA on 1800 621 666.