



## Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Computed Tomography Laboratories

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# News Release

For Immediate Release:  
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## ICACTL Revises Its Accreditation Standards:

*More Stringent Guidelines Related to Patient Dose Increases and Appropriate Use Criteria Are Now Incorporated*

Ellicott City, MD—The Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Computed Tomography Laboratories (ICACTL) announced today its revised accreditation standards, including the incorporation of guidelines to strengthen patient safety as it relates to radiation standards and Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC). *The ICACTL Standards* are available for download, at no charge, from [www.icactl.org](http://www.icactl.org).

### Radiation Dose Considerations

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), “While unnecessary radiation exposure should be avoided, a medically-needed CT scan has benefits that outweigh the radiation risks”. In an effort to increase the laboratory’s awareness of patient radiation exposure that may result in a higher than expected dose, *The ICACTL Standards* have been revised to incorporate higher patient safety requirements. Laboratories that make any changes to the manufacturer’s default settings, that may result in an increase in patient radiation exposure, are now required to maintain documentation and provide adequate justification. The rationale for protocol deviation, as well as the impact of the increased dose on image quality and on radiation dose should be documented by the supervising physician and reviewed and approved by the medical physicist.

According to Mary Lally, MS, RT(R) (MR), the ICACTL Technical Manager, “The ICACTL accreditation program is strengthened as a result of these revisions to *The Standards*. By requiring a medical physicist’s involvement when patient dose increases are considered, the impact on the radiation dose and image quality will be appropriately assessed. This is very positive for all involved, most significantly the patients.”

### Appropriate Use Criteria

Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) define “when to do” and “how often to do” a given procedure in the context of scientific evidence, the health care environment, the patient’s profile and a physician’s judgment. The criteria are designed to examine the use of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures to support efficient use of medical resources, while also providing patients with quality, appropriate care.

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As part of the accreditation program's Quality Assessment component, *The ICACTL Standards* now recommend that laboratories measure the appropriate use of the Computed Tomography examination, based upon criteria published and/or endorsed by professional medical organizations. Accredited laboratories are encouraged to measure and document the percentage of appropriate, inappropriate and uncertain indications for testing. In addition, a program for education and reporting is suggested, inclusive of patterns of adherence to AUC, baseline rates of adherence, goals for improvement of adherence to appropriate use criteria, measurement of improvement rate and confidential comparison reports on patterns of adherence in aggregate by ordering physician, ordering practice and interpreting practice.

**About the ICACTL**

The ICACTL was created in 2007 by uniting physicians and technologists from the sponsoring organizations (listed on the first page). Collaborating together, those physicians and technologists composed the body of work known as *The ICACTL Standards*, an extensive document defining the minimal requirements for facilities to provide quality care. Facilities use *The ICACTL Standards* as both a guideline and the foundation to create and achieve realistic quality care goals. Accreditation signifies that a laboratory has been reviewed by an independent agency and that the applicant facility was found to be in substantial compliance with objective standards of quality. While participation in the accreditation process is considered voluntary, a multitude of private insurers, as well as Medicare carriers, have instituted policies linking reimbursement to the accreditation status of the laboratory. For more information visit [www.icactl.org](http://www.icactl.org).

**About the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission**

The ICACTL is a member of the IAC along with the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL), the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL), the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories (ICANL) and the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Magnetic Resonance Laboratories (ICAMRL).

To date, the IAC accrediting bodies have granted accreditation to more than 8,000 laboratory sites throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. The IAC is a preeminent leader in contributing to continuous improvement in health care by its exclusive dedication to recognizing and establishing value driven quality standards through collaboration with professional medical membership organizations and to providing peer review accreditation. For more information about the IAC, visit [www.intersocietal.org](http://www.intersocietal.org)

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