
STANDARDS

FOR ACCREDITATION OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE TRAINING SITES

General Standards

1. A site seeking accreditation for nuclear medicine advanced training must demonstrate that it has suitable staff, workload and facilities available to the trainee to permit advanced training. There are six general standards, and two standards specific to positron emission tomography (if applicable), with various criteria listed relating to each standard. Each criterion will be applied by the Australasian Association of Nuclear Medicine Specialists' (AANMS) Training Site Accreditation Committee (TSAC) to decide if each standard has been achieved. Documentation for each criterion will be required.

A site may seek limited accreditation as a site for paediatric rotations only. Any site seeking this limited accreditation must demonstrate that it has suitable staff, workload and facilities available to the trainee to permit advanced training for the duration for which the trainee attends the site. Four of the six general standards noted above will need to be achieved by a site seeking limited accreditation as a site for paediatric rotations only. In addition, Standard 2, Criterion 2.2 (iii) will need to be achieved (minimum direct case load per trainee for paediatrics).

If a site does not gain accreditation, or reaccreditation, then it has the right of appeal to the Executive of the AANMS, which will reconsider the case in collaboration with at least one representative of the Committee for Joint College Training (CJCT) in Nuclear Medicine of the RACP and the RANZCR and the TSAC.

2. The site must be situated in, or affiliated with, a university accredited teaching hospital (i.e. a teaching hospital that is part of a university medical school).

Trainees seeking prospective approval for general nuclear medicine and/or PET training at an overseas hospital shall ensure that the hospital applies for accreditation as a training site prior to the trainee commencing training at the site.

Overseas training sites will be considered only if the standard of training is considered to be at least equivalent to that available at accredited training sites in Australia, as determined by the TSAC. All guidelines for training must be met. The site will be accredited by the local relevant training accreditation body and will have a track record in training vocational trainees/resident trainees in a program comparable to that in Australia (i.e. a 2-year minimum full-time program). Potential overseas training sites should be aware that a determination of approval will take up to 6 months to obtain.

3. In general, a site must be able to provide for 12 months of training in order for it to be considered suitable for accreditation. Exceptions may be made in special circumstances but will be limited to the year during which the unusual situation has arisen.
4. Accredited sites must notify the TSAC of any change of circumstances within their site which may lead to their failing to meet the minimum criteria for accreditation. This notification should go through the Chair of the TSAC. Failure to notify within one month of the changed circumstances will result in automatic withdrawal of accreditation status.

New Applications

A site that does not hold current accreditation for nuclear medicine advanced training *shall submit an application at least six months in advance of advertising a training position*. Accreditation will require a satisfactory application and site visit, and will be granted only *from the year after the site visit*.

If a site requests “urgent” accreditation (i.e. within the same year as the application is submitted), then the TSAC will consider, at its discretion, cost recovery from the site for the costs of an “urgent” site visit.

Continuing Accreditation

Accredited sites must complete and return an annual AANMS Accreditation Report to allow for review/extension of accreditation on an annual basis. Report forms will be forwarded to heads of all accredited sites each year and are to be returned by due date (normally the last business day in February each year). This is to allow time for the report to be considered by the TSAC, whose recommendation will be considered at the earliest subsequent meeting of the Board of the AANMS. Accreditation is granted on a calendar basis (1 January to 31 December) each year for the subsequent calendar year.

Site Visits

New sites will undergo a site visit prior to any decision on accreditation being made.

Currently-accredited sites will undergo a routine site visit at least every four years and at other times as needed.

The TSAC will normally conduct site visits between late February and early April each year, to ensure that all accreditation recommendations can be made to the Board of the AANMS no later than May each year, thereby allowing decisions to be made prior to trainee recruitment for the subsequent year.

Site visits will normally be conducted by two TSAC assessors from states other than that in which the relevant site is located.

Standard 1

The site shall provide appropriate supervision for advanced training. This Standard shall apply to a site seeking limited accreditation as a site for paediatric rotations only.

Criteria:

- 1.1 A credentialed nuclear medicine specialist, who is, or is eligible to be, a Fellow or an Ordinary Member of the AANMS, shall be in attendance in the site at all times that routine nuclear medicine procedures are performed. In order to adequately train more than one trainee, the site must have an additional one full time equivalent nuclear medicine specialist, per trainee.
- 1.2 Any supervision of a trainee by a credentialed nuclear medicine specialist who is not, and is not eligible to be, a Fellow or a Member of the AANMS, shall be permitted only in exceptional circumstances. This supervision will be limited to no more than one day per week, and only occur where a site has demonstrated that supervision by such a specialist shall be of an equivalent standard to that provided by a specialist who is, or is eligible to be, a Fellow or a Member of the AANMS.

- 1.3 The nuclear medicine specialist shall be present at all times when the trainee is undertaking nuclear medicine procedures and supervise all reporting. All final reports shall be checked by a nuclear medicine specialist.
- 1.4 In the case of emergency after-hours procedures, reports issued by the trainee must be checked by a nuclear medicine specialist.
- 1.5 The nuclear medicine specialist shall ensure that the trainee is involved in the daily running of the nuclear medicine service, including supervision of scanning, patient examination, undertaking procedures and report generation.

Standard 2

The site shall have sufficient workload of clinical material for advanced training. Criterion 2.2 (iii) only shall apply to a site seeking limited accreditation as a site for paediatric rotations only.

Criteria:

- 2.1 The workload of the site shall be at least 2,500 nuclear medicine patients per annum, per trainee and adjusted pro-rata as below, encompassing the entire range of diagnostic nuclear medicine and ancillary procedures as designated on the annual report/application form, i.e. General Nuclear Medicine, Cardiac Nuclear Medicine, Paediatric Nuclear Medicine; Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine, Non-Imaging (including Bone Mineral Densitometry) Studies and PET.
- 2.2 As a general guide to satisfy the CJCT's requirements, the following are considered the minimum direct case load requirements per trainee for the site to be eligible for accreditation:
 - (i) *General Nuclear Medicine*: 2,000 cases per annum (including Paediatric Nuclear Medicine studies). Note that CT scans performed on SPECT/CT cameras for attenuation correction and anatomical localisation cannot be included in general nuclear medicine study numbers.
 - (ii) *Cardiac Nuclear Medicine*
Thallium and/or sestamibi: 250 cases per annum, with "hands on" involvement, plus an additional 200 cases per annum which may be from a library of cases acceptable to the Training Site Accreditation Committee
 - (iii) *Paediatrics*: an average of at least 25 cases per month
 - (iv) *Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine*: 20 cases per annum
 - (v) *Bone Mineral Densitometry*: 200 cases per annum
 - (vi) *Positron Emission Tomography (PET)*: 300 PET oncology cases per annum.
- 2.3 If paediatric nuclear medicine training is not available in the site, arrangements shall be made by the site for the trainee to attend an accredited paediatric nuclear medicine training site during his/her training period. In accordance with CJCT requirements for paediatric training, the site shall permit the trainee to undertake paediatric training off site for at least five to 10 working days per annum.
- 2.4 If bone mineral densitometry training is not available in the site, arrangements shall be made by the site for the trainee to undertake the Clinical Densitometry Training Course run by the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society (ANZBMS) if necessary.

2.5 If positron emission tomography (PET) training is not available in the sites, arrangements shall be made by the site for the trainee to attend an accredited PET site during his/her training period if necessary. In accordance with CJCT requirements, it is expected that the site shall permit the trainee to undertake PET training off site for up to 10 working days per annum.

Standard 3

The site shall provide a suitable infrastructure for advanced training. This Standard shall apply to a site seeking limited accreditation as a site for paediatric rotations only.

Criteria:

- 3.1 The site shall ensure that the trainee attends regularly scheduled inter-disciplinary clinical meetings. In addition, given the CJCT's requirements that the trainee present and discuss selected cases and participate in undergraduate and post-graduate teaching where possible, the site shall facilitate such involvement.
- 3.2 The site shall provide an environment in which non-nuclear medicine clinicians regularly attend the site for advice and interpretation of scans.
- 3.3 The site shall provide for correlative imaging and for discussion of results with the relevant specialists.
- 3.4 The site shall provide access to a medical library with current text books, journals and computer retrieval and search facilities. A case-based film library, with regular additions as required, shall be available within the site.
- 3.5 The site shall involve the trainee in essential clinical tasks such as red blood cell labelling, white blood cell labelling and Technegas (or aerosol) preparation and administration. The site should also reinforce the training in various quality control tasks that the trainee acquires during the Basic Sciences Course, and shall provide the trainee with ongoing training and supervision in routine quality control procedures for gamma cameras, radiopharmaceuticals and computers.

Adequate procedure manuals, protocols and patient documentation must be kept. Such procedure manuals and protocols must be reviewed formally on an annual basis.

Standard 4

The site shall provide access to the necessary scientific staff and equipment to permit advanced training. This Standard shall apply to a site seeking limited accreditation as a site for paediatric rotations only.

Criteria:

- 4.1 The site shall employ, or demonstrate ready access to advice from, a qualified nuclear medicine physicist.
- 4.2 The site shall have a State Accredited Radiation Safety Officer.
- 4.3 The site shall have access to a radiopharmacist/radiochemist to discuss problems in radiopharmaceutical quality control procedures, radiolabelling techniques and related issues.

Standard 5

The trainee shall receive formal training in nuclear medicine science during advanced training. This Standard does not apply to a site seeking limited accreditation as a site for paediatric rotations only.

Criterion:

5.1 The site shall enable the trainee to attend the annual Basic Nuclear Medicine Science Course or an equivalent CJCT accredited course, in accordance with CJCT requirements.

Standard 6

The site shall have suitable research facilities for advanced training. If the trainee so requires, the site shall provide him/her with sufficient resources to undertake or complete his/her research project in accordance with the mandatory research training requirements applicable to the Nuclear Medicine Advanced Training Program of the CJCT. This Standard shall apply to a site seeking limited accreditation as a site for paediatric rotations only.

Criteria:

6.1 The site shall have an active research program, and shall ensure a research project of an appropriate type (i.e. systematic review, audit, research in human populations/communities or laboratory research) is available for the trainee according to the trainee's requirements .

6.2 The trainee shall be provided with sufficient support, including time, to undertake or complete his/her research project in accordance with CJCT requirements.

Standards for Positron Emission Tomography (PET)

There are two Standards, with related criteria, that shall apply to any site seeking accreditation as a site for advanced training for PET.

PET Standard One

The site shall provide appropriate supervision for advanced training in PET.

PET Criterion:

1.1 The trainee in PET shall be supervised at all times by a specialist credentialled in PET by the Joint Nuclear Medicine Credentialling and Accreditation Committee (JNMCAC).

PET Standard Two

The site shall have sufficient workload of clinical material for advanced training in PET.

PET Criteria

- 2.1 The PET workload of the site per annum shall be in excess of 300 dedicated PET studies per trainee per annum, involving the widest possible range of indications, including oncology, neurology and cardiology, and preferably encompassing a range of radionuclides/radiopharmaceuticals in addition to FDG.
- 2.2 The trainee shall be present and supervised for in excess of 300 dedicated PET studies.