

Development of BS70000:2017 for iCEPSS

The development of the Improving Clinical Engineering and Physical Science Services (iCEPSS) accreditation relied on an in depth understanding of the application of existing standards as well as the role of the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) and the accreditation process. Many departments already have certification to international standards and any development of further standards must build on the existing programmes and not add to cost. Initial discussions indicated that iCEPSS would map onto ISO15189:2012, however, it is not completely fit for purpose and changing this standard in the short term will not be possible. Both the British Standards Institution (BSI) and UKAS support the development of a British Standard (BS70000) that would provide a framework for the accreditation of healthcare science services (laboratories will remain with ISO15189:2012). The standard would link to ISO9001 and thus build upon existing certification standards. This also provided the potential to bring together a number of existing standards.

The project completed in January 2016 with the publication of BS70000:2017 following public consultation and revision. This project relied heavily on the work already input into iCEPSS as well as that for the Improving Quality in Physiological Services (IQIPS). It sought to carefully map the requirements of ISO15189 and ISO17025 to ensure alignment with existing international accreditation standards. A key difference between iCEPSS and BS70000 is that the latter has focussed on the metrology aspects of the scientific and engineering services. This brings much greater alignment to ISO15189 and the justification of measurements, their accuracy and appropriateness for use.

The standard was heavily supported by IPEM and BSI. The development of the standard was funded by the BSI and IPEM. BSI provided the standards writing team, with IPEM providing the technical standards expertise with representation from a number of professional bodies. BSI own and publish the Standard. The impetus for the project was enhanced because of the desire of the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (EFOMP) to develop a European-wide standard. This would have impacted on the UK and the future suitability of iCEPSS. EFOMP were represented on the development of BS70000 and secured responses from European stakeholders to the consultation. It is anticipated and planned that BS70000 will ultimately inform the development of a European Standard.

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