



Joint Statement on Improving Clinical Engineering and Physical Science Services (iCEPSS) Accreditation Scheme

Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering impacts on virtually every patient care pathway and contributes significantly to the delivery of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and to the management of risk. The mandate from Government to NHS England sets out objectives to improve the nation's health and create the highest quality health care service. A significant number of organisations are already contributing to these objectives by providing high quality scientific and diagnostic services that are accredited under government-recognised schemes.

Accreditation is an important part of quality assurance and provides confidence in services, management systems and people. It ensures technical competence and integrity against nationally and internationally recognised standards. NHS England fully supports a commissioning system focus on the prioritisation of accredited healthcare services across all scientific and diagnostic services. To support this aim NHS England commissioned the development of an 'Improving Clinical Engineering and Physical Science Services Accreditation Scheme' (iCEPSS), which outlines an agreed set of high level accreditation standards and methodology established by the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) and Institute for Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM).

Following this work, the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) has agreed to manage and deliver iCEPSS for those specialisms falling under the clinical engineering and physical sciences umbrella. It is expected that IPEM will continue to provide expertise and advice to the iCEPSS programme through UKAS governance arrangements, ensuring that the relevant clinical information is considered, stakeholder's views are captured and the provision of accreditation remains relevant, up to date and of high value.

A panel of technical experts will be brought together in April 2017 in collaboration with IPEM and UKAS to determine the scope of the application of the iCEPSS scheme and identify the standards to be used as the criteria for accreditation. In the coming month's expressions of interest will be sought from those services wishing to be considered for selection as pilot sites. These sites will test the standards and assurance processes to identify the appropriate components of a fit for purpose scheme which will be achievable across the nations of the United Kingdom. It is hoped that within the next year pilot services will gain UKAS accreditation for iCEPSS and a programme of work will be in place to roll this out to the wider system.

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