

Health Economics Program – Fact Sheet

Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation and Reporting Requirement

[Minnesota Statutes, Section 144.1225](#) requires that by **August 1, 2013** advanced diagnostic imaging services eligible for reimbursement provided at facilities shall only be reimbursed if the facility where the service has been provided:

1. Has obtained accreditation and
2. Has demonstrated holding accreditation annually in reports to the Commissioner of Health.

This requirement applies to physicians, non-physician practitioners, surgical centers, and freestanding and mobile diagnostic imaging facilities. The accreditation will apply only to the facility billing for the production of the images themselves (Technical Component (TC) of the services), and not to the physician's interpretation of the image.

Approved accreditation organizations are:

- [The Joint Commission](#)
- [American College of Radiology](#)
- [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission](#)

Services Covered

[Minnesota Statutes, Section 144.1225](#) define Advanced Diagnostic Imaging services to include diagnostic magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), and nuclear medicine including positron emission tomography (PET). Services including X-ray, ultrasound, and fluoroscopy, as defined in United States Code, title 42, section 1395M, are excluded from this definition.

Reporting

Providers of Advanced Diagnostic Imaging services must demonstrate their accreditation annually to the Minnesota Department of Health. The Fiscal Year 2013 Diagnostic Imaging Facility Utilization Report as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 144.565, includes a section for documenting accreditation and will be the first year for which accreditation information is collected; this is required reporting.

As always, the Diagnostic Imaging Facility Utilization Report is due to the Minnesota Department of Health by March 1st for the prior fiscal year. ***Submission of accreditation certification (pdf by email attachment) is required with this report.***

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - Updated September 2013

Q: How will facilities obtain accreditation if they didn't carry it by August 1, 2013 but need to produce images to obtain accreditation?

A: The provisions in the law require that facilities hold accreditation in order to be reimbursed for advanced imaging services. Nothing prevents a facility from operating advanced imaging equipment

for the purposes of producing images needed for accreditation. While facilities seek to become accredited, however, they may not bill for advanced imaging services.

Q: Facilities that provide advanced imaging services must demonstrate that they have been accredited by one of the approved accreditation organizations by **August 1, 2013**. However, reporting through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) existing reporting mechanisms will only take place in 2014. Does that mean de facto the reporting requirement is delayed until 2014?

A: No, facilities subject to being accredited for advanced imaging services must be able to demonstrate that they hold appropriate accreditation effective August 1, 2013. MDH is using existing data collection mechanism to satisfy the reporting requirement under the law in order to reduce any required reporting burden. While this means that annual reporting will not occur until 2014, facilities will still be required to prove compliance with the respective accreditation provisions, starting with the effective date.

Q: If our facility did not obtain accreditation by **August 1, 2013** is there an extension process from MDH that will allow us to bill for advanced diagnostic services while we obtain accreditation?

A: No, the law does not provide an extension process for this requirement.

Q: Can our facility bill retroactively for advanced diagnostic services after we obtain accreditation?

A: The law states that to be eligible to receive reimbursement a facility must obtain accreditation by **August 1, 2013**. Thereafter, all facilities that provide advanced diagnostic imaging services in the state must obtain accreditation prior to commencing operations and must, at all times, maintain accreditation with an accrediting organization listed in the law.

Q: Our facility carries a radioactive materials license or a Medicare certification by MDH, but the facility is not accredited by one of the approved accrediting organizations. Do we need to become accredited?

A: Yes, your facility will need to obtain accreditation by one of the approved accrediting organizations by **August 1, 2013**. An MDH operating license (for use of radioactive materials or otherwise) or Medicare certification does not meet the new advanced diagnostic imaging accreditation requirements in Minnesota. Registration of radiation producing equipment and the qualifications of individuals who may operate radiation producing equipment are separate and in addition to the provisions for the advanced diagnostic imaging accreditation and reporting requirements.

Q: Our facility, which is not a hospital, leases equipment from an accredited mobile facility. Does this relationship assure that we the accreditation requirement?

A1: If your facility is billing for the Technical Component (TC) of the services, the law requires that your facility becomes accredited by one of the approved accrediting organizations by **August 1, 2013**.

A2: If the mobile facility is billing for the Technical Component (TC) of the services, the mobile facility is responsible for accreditation. Your facility is not required to be directly accredited for advanced imaging services.

A3: If your facility and the mobile facility are both billing for the Technical Component (TC) of the services, both have to obtain accreditation.

Q: The various accrediting organizations that are approved under this law differ in the standards and mandates that they specify for obtaining accreditation. Must facilities meet all standards, even if the relevant accrediting organization requires compliance with a more narrow set of standards?

A: Facilities would satisfy the requirements under this statute so long as they are accredited by one of the bodies specified in [Minnesota Statutes, Section 144.1225](#).

More information about Diagnostic Imaging Reporting can be found at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpsc/dap/hccis/har.htm>.

Questions can be sent to: health.hccis@state.mn.us