The Quality Standard for Imaging (QSI) sets national quality criteria for imaging services in all healthcare settings in the UK. Accreditation against the QSI is managed by the independent accreditation body UKAS. The QSI considers quality with specific reference to regulatory compliance and professional guidelines. Accreditation continues to enable demonstration that you have all the systems in place for a competent, safe, effective and continually improving imaging service.

**Frequently asked questions**

- **What is the Quality Standard for Imaging?**
  - The Quality Standard for Imaging (QSI) sets national quality criteria for imaging services in all healthcare settings in the UK.

- **What will the QSI offer that is different?**
  - The only change will be the enhanced support available through the Colleges’ Improved Quality Improvement Partners at QSI@rcr.ac.uk.

- **What is the Quality Standard for Imaging?**
  - The Quality Standard for Imaging (QSI) sets national quality criteria for imaging services in all healthcare settings in the UK.

- **How do we access the Colleges’ support?**
  - The Quality Improvement Partners are available by email, phone or to visit your department at any stage. Online resources and events are also available. The Colleges are running QSI training/networking days will be communicated as they become available. Suggestions for useful tools can be sent to the Quality Improvement Partners via QSI@rcr.ac.uk.

- **What is the role of UKAS with the QSI?**
  - UKAS is the independent accreditation body for the UK, and the only independent accreditation body for the QSI. UKAS will assess services against the Quality Standard and grant accreditation. The QSI process allows your service to build the evidence base for accreditation independently against the QSI.

- **What is the Quality Standard for Imaging?**
  - The Quality Standard for Imaging (QSI) sets national quality criteria for imaging services in all healthcare settings in the UK.

- **How much will this cost?**
  - There will be no charge for the support made available by the Colleges in order to build the evidence base for accreditation.

- **Our service is in the TLR system - what does this mean for us?**
  - The only change will be the enhanced support available through the Colleges’ Improved Quality Improvement Partners at QSI@rcr.ac.uk.

- **How much will this cost?**
  - There will be no charge for the support made available by the Colleges in order to build the evidence base for accreditation.

- **Do we have to be UKAS accredited?**
  - Yes - the QSI enables services to develop quality improvement within their team and work towards meeting the standard.

- **Does QSI apply to all four UK countries?**
  - Yes – and to NHS, commercial and not for profit imaging services in any of those countries.

- **How can I learn more about the Standard?**
  - The Standard can be found on these web pages: www.rcr.ac.uk/qsi and www.sor.org/qsi or email one of the Quality Improvement Partners at QSI@rcr.ac.uk.
About the Colleges

The Royal College of Radiologists works with our members to improve the standard of practice across the fields of radiology and oncology.

We educate and support doctors throughout their career, and in turn, input from our members drives the College forward. Together, we are contributing to the advancement of each new generation of doctors.

The College of Radiographers (CoR) is concerned with the promotion and development of medical imaging and radiotherapy, the promotion of study and research into radiography, and the promotion of public awareness of the profession.

CoR is committed to enabling and promoting high-quality imaging services delivered by competent staff working in safe environments.

Why should an imaging service use the standard?

Together, we want to support all imaging services to deliver high quality patient care. Accreditation to the Quality Standard for Imaging (QSI) will continue to be the hallmark of a quality imaging service.

The QSI also ensures that an imaging department is able to innovate and improve their service: for patients, staff and the parent organisation, ensuring the patient is at the centre of everything they do.

The staged approach described in this brochure allows services to meet the standard in a manageable way, against a backdrop of staff vacancies, limited time and money.

THE QSI:
- emphasises the focus of the standard is on quality of services and not accreditation alone
- breaks down the quality improvement journey to manageable stages
- will provide new and improved resources to support services on their journey through to accreditation
- will build peer support networks through the Colleges to share best practice

STAGE ONE
Organisational buy in

Our aim is to support you to gain 'buy-in' from your senior management team.

To help you achieve this, we have developed the following resources:
- Website: 'Getting started' 
- Case studies to demonstrate how others have achieved this
- Template business case for launching QSI
- Template letter confirming organisations' commitment to quality improvement

Some of these are in development but will be added to the web pages asap.

STAGE TWO
Gap Analysis

Services supported by the colleges to identify baseline for improvement by providing the tools below:
- The QSI Standard is available to download from the Colleges’ QSI webpages
- Please contact us to arrange attendance at a gap analysis workshop

Coming soon to the webpages:
- ‘How to’ webinar on gap analysis
- A gap analysis tool

STAGE THREE
Service Development

Services will receive support from the Colleges to meet the QSI Standard. The support is aimed at bridging the gap between current service delivery and the changes necessary for formal accreditation. The QSI web pages will provide:
- ‘How to’ webinars on a range of quality improvement tools
- Case studies
- Templates for policies and procedures
- Network support offering mutual help