



ICAVL • ICAEL • ICANL • ICAMRL • ICACTL
Intersocietal Accreditation Commission

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ICAVL www.icavl.org ICAEL www.icael.org ICANL www.icanl.org ICAMRL www.icamrl.org ICACTL www.icactl.org

Member Organizations

INTERSOCIETAL COMMISSION
FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF
VASCULAR LABORATORIES

INTERSOCIETAL COMMISSION
FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF
ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY LABORATORIES

INTERSOCIETAL COMMISSION
FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF
NUCLEAR MEDICINE LABORATORIES

INTERSOCIETAL COMMISSION
FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF
MAGNETIC RESONANCE LABORATORIES

INTERSOCIETAL COMMISSION
FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF
COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY LABORATORIES

Sponsoring Organizations

ACADEMY OF MOLECULAR IMAGING

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
NUCLEAR PHYSICIANS

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEUROIMAGING

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY

JOINT SECTION ON
CEREBROVASCULAR SURGERY /
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS
AND CONGRESS OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR
ANGIOGRAPHY AND INTERVENTIONS

SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR
MAGNETIC RESONANCE

SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR
MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY

SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR SURGERY

SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR
COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

SOCIETY OF DIAGNOSTIC
MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

SOCIETY OF
INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE

SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE
TECHNOLOGIST SECTION

SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC
ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGISTS
IN ULTRASOUND

SOCIETY OF VASCULAR ULTRASOUND

News Release

**For Immediate Release
January 12, 2007**

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Lawrence Williams; 800-838-2110**

IAC Committed To Assisting Labs In Meeting UnitedHealth Group's Recent Requirement For Accreditation Of Imaging Facilities

Columbia, MD - In response to today's announcement from UnitedHealth Group, the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) is committed to working with affected laboratories to provide assistance with achieving accreditation.

UnitedHealth Group is requiring that by March 1, 2008, all participating, freestanding imaging facilities and physician offices performing CT, CTA, MRI, MRA, Nuclear Medicine/Cardiology, PET, and Echocardiography will need to obtain accreditation as a condition for reimbursement.

The IAC is a national, nonprofit organization in operation to evaluate and accredit diagnostic imaging facilities, with the goal of improving the quality of patient care provided in private offices, clinics and hospitals where such medical tests are provided.

Currently, there are five divisions within the IAC:

- the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL), providing accreditation for facilities performing noninvasive vascular testing; www.icavl.org
- the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL), providing accreditation for facilities performing echocardiography; www.icael.org
- the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories (ICANL), providing accreditation for facilities performing nuclear cardiology, general nuclear medicine, and/or PET imaging; www.icanl.org
- the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Magnetic Resonance Laboratories (ICAMRL), providing accreditation for facilities performing magnetic resonance imaging; www.icamrl.org
- the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Computed Tomography Laboratories (ICACTL), which will begin accrediting laboratories that perform CT scanning in 2007. www.icactl.org

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a commitment to quality patient care through accreditation

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Each of these organizations has developed a comprehensive, peer-review accreditation program for its respective area of diagnostic testing and is recognized for providing a mechanism for laboratories to demonstrate their commitment to quality care. The accrediting bodies have each been created using an intersocietal approach, independent of a membership organization.

Designed to help laboratories attain the highest possible imaging quality to improve patient care, each of these accrediting programs is composed of two critical steps. The first is an internal self-assessment by laboratory staff. This self-assessment includes review of the *Standards* and completion of the accreditation application. During the application process, applicant laboratories submit documentation on every aspect of their daily operations, including sample case studies along with their corresponding final reports. While completing the application, laboratories are required to identify and correct deficiencies, revising protocols and validating quality assurance programs. The second step in the process is a confidential peer review conducted by two independent application reviewers. The Board of Directors is then convened to render the final accreditation decision: accreditation granted for three years, provisional accreditation granted for one year, or a delay accreditation decision. The accreditation granted by these commissions signifies that a laboratory has been reviewed by an independent agency and that the applicant facility was found to be in substantial compliance with objective standards of quality.

The length of time needed to prepare an application is dependent upon many factors such as the laboratory's preparedness in relation to the *Standards* and the amount of time that can be dedicated to preparing the application. Therefore, in order to meet the March 1, 2008 deadline instituted by UnitedHealthcare, participating imaging facilities are encouraged to begin the accreditation process as soon as possible by reviewing the *Standards* applicable to the testing areas performed by their laboratories and obtaining the accreditation application.

The IAC accrediting commissions are each committed to assisting laboratories with earning accreditation. IAC staff members include both clinical and administrative, highly trained professionals ready to respond to questions related to the process. To provide specific guidance, a series of webcasts is available on the following topics:

- Preparing Your Staff and Facility for Accreditation
- Do Your Protocols Meet the Minimum Requirements?
- QA/QC and Accreditation, Documenting Your Laboratory's Accuracy
- Are All of Your Final Reports Complete and Accurate?
- Case Studies: Documenting Your Proof of Quality

Sandra L. Katanick, CEO, remarked, "Through a consistent and objective process of evaluation, constructive criticism, feedback and re-evaluation, it is the IAC's intention that the quality of the imaging facilities accredited [noninvasive vascular, echocardiography, nuclear cardiology, nuclear medicine, positron emission tomography (PET), magnetic resonance and CT] will be substantially enhanced and become more uniform. We look forward to working with the UnitedHealthcare providers to help them earn accreditation and thus improve the quality of care they are providing."

To begin the accreditation process and review the free webcasts, laboratories are encouraged to visit the websites: www.icavl.org (vascular); www.icael.org (echocardiography); www.icanl.org (nuclear medicine/nuclear cardiology/PET imaging); www.icamrl.org (magnetic resonance) and/or www.icactl.org (computed tomography). A link devoted to the new UnitedHealthcare accreditation requirement is available on each website; under the Reimbursement section, go to Payment Policies and select UnitedHealthcare. Personalized assistance with the accreditation process can be obtained by calling the IAC offices at 800-838-2110.

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