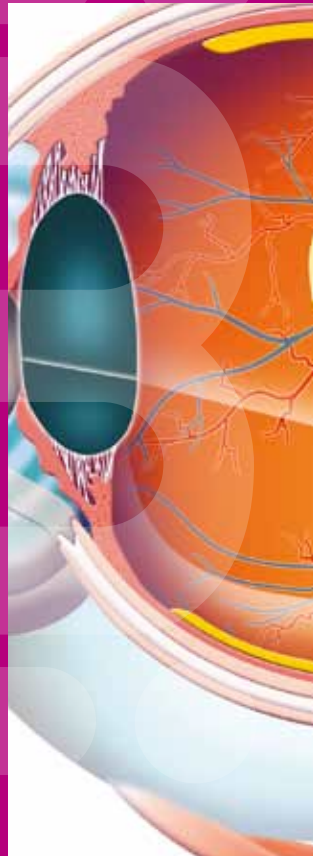


Institute of
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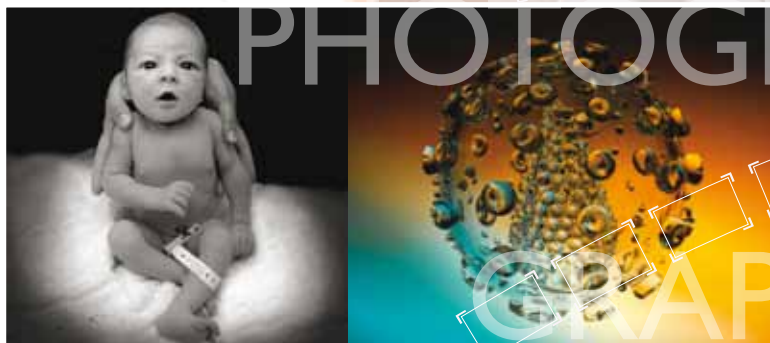
Quality Assurance Standards (QAS)

Photography • Art • Graphic Design • Video



clinical photography, design and video in healthcare

300 DPI



Quality Assurance Standards (QAS)

The Institute of Medical Illustrators Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) provides a systematic framework to measure the implementation and effectiveness of quality initiatives in Medical Illustration units across the UK. It is intended that they will complement, but not duplicate, existing quality assurance programmes and provide an opportunity to share and disseminate good practice.

The QAS scheme was designed by the profession, for the profession, and it has been robustly reviewed with the assistance of a nationally qualified audit training expert.

Find out more

Institute of Medical Illustrators
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Benefits

Healthcare is increasingly evidence-based, centering decisions on the benefits of improving the patient care pathway. A well structured medical illustration service contributes to the care pathway, with the provision of standardised photography or the production of high-quality patient information. These outcomes are supported by well-tested working practices that are ultimately recognised through the QAS scheme.

- Standards are appropriate to the service.
- Our auditors are all qualified medical illustrators.
- QAS Level 1 provides a baseline for departments who undertake training and therefore ensures that degree students are provided with all that is required to meet their training needs. All universities placing students require a guarantee that work placements are fit for purpose. QAS Level 1 provides that guarantee.
- QAS Level 2 is designed to examine overall organisational excellence, testing not only that systems are in place, but also that knowledge and understanding of policies, procedures and protocols are apparent.
- QAS Certification can contribute to other core standards set by the NHS Legal Authority against which every Trust in England is measured and financial penalties are made. QAS certification will also be recognized in Wales and Scotland, contributing to their own national healthcare quality standards.

Audit process

The framework has been designed to enable self-assessment by the service manager in the first instance, which will then be audited independently by an external auditor.

A copy of the standards handbook is available on the IMI website.



Sample size

Examination of documentation and the number of staff questioned will vary, depending on the number of staff employed in the department.

The auditors will ask staff to respond to a series of questions associated with each standard in order to ascertain whether or not the department has met the criteria. A cross section of staff by grade or professional group may be asked to answer questions.

Compliance

Compliance with each standard will be registered as a tick in the appropriate column. The auditor will examine a sample of the supporting evidence for each criteria before registering compliance.

- Level 1 comprises 41 Standards.
- Level 2 comprises 28 Standards, under the same categories, but examined in more depth.

During a Level 2 audit, Level 1 criteria will be re-examined. Accreditation is awarded for a three-year period only, after which renewal will be necessary.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is QAS Level 1 & 2?

QAS stands for Quality Assurance Standards. Level 1 is designed to ensure that those departments who wish to take on a student have a number of important support systems in place. Level 2 is a higher level achievement that investigates the managerial processes in more depth.

How much work is involved in each level?

Much of the criteria will already be in place within your Department (e.g. Job descriptions, Health and Safety manuals) and much of the rest is providing evidence (this can be written or posted on an Intranet site) of standardised ways of working (i.e. policies and procedures). Level 2 covers the same areas in more depth and looks at communication systems that support an efficiently functioning unit.

What is the difference between levels 1 & 2?

There are 41 criteria in Level 1 and a further 28 to achieve Level 2.

Why is it worth my department achieving this quality award?

This is the only quality award designed specifically to suit a Medical Illustration Service and to be audited by members of your profession, who understand what you do, and the way you perform.

Achieving this award can contribute to core standards set by the NHSLA against which all Trusts in England and Wales are measured.

How much does it cost my department to be audited by the QAS team?

IMI Members - Level 1 = £250
 IMI Members - Level 2 = £550
 Non Members - Level 1 = £500
 Non Members - Level 2 = £700

Who do I contact to get more information about IMI QAS Standards?

Email: standards@imi.org.uk or visit the IMI Web site



www.imi.org.uk

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