

IQIPS Accreditation

Association for Respiratory Technology and Physiology (ARTP) Official Position Statement on IQIPS Accreditation – November 2017

Improving Quality in Physiological Services (IQIPS) is an accreditation scheme for physiological services, including respiratory and sleep services. The accreditation scheme is managed and delivered by the United Kingdom Accreditation Scheme (UKAS) and the standards developed and maintained by professional bodies.

Services that successfully gain accreditation have shown that their services comply with the professionally developed standards across 4 domains: Patient Experience, Safety, Facilities, Resources and Workforce and Clinical. Accredited services are committed to ongoing service review and improvement, offering high quality care to their patients and service users. The IQIPS accreditation programme is now recognised by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and fully supported by NHS England.

To date, the only IQIPS accredited service in respiratory/sleep physiology is at the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust.

ARTP encourages and recommends that in 2018 all respiratory and sleep diagnostic services start to discuss service accreditation within their Trusts with service managers/healthcare science networks and start to engage in IQIPS accreditation. Access to the pre-accreditation online assessment tool (Traffic Light Ready (TLR)) is a cost effective way for all services to initially engage in the accreditation process and to map and score their service against the standards, to undertake “gap analysis” and start to improve the quality of their services and the care they offer to patients. This also allows physiological services within Trusts to collaborate and work together, and also to raise the profile of Healthcare Science services.

Inevitably, there are services that do not meet the required standards and offer sub-optimal care to patients, which may lead to misdiagnosis or poor patient outcomes, and this is not acceptable. Services performing diagnostic procedures or involved in treatment regimes must always strive to offer the highest standards.

It is therefore essential that all services (regardless of department size) engage to achieve IQIPS accreditation as the accepted badge of quality for respiratory

and sleep services and continue to improve quality. This must be every services responsibility to recognise the important work we do as healthcare professionals, and to continually improve standards.

More details on IQIPS can be found at

<https://www.ukas.com/services/accreditation-services/physiological-services-accreditation-iqips/>

Association of Gastro-Intestinal Physiologists [AGIP] Official Position Statement on IQIPS Accreditation – July, 2017

The official position from Association of Gastro-Intestinal Physiologists [AGIP], announced at the British Society of Gastroenterology [BSG] meeting in 2016 and again at the June 2017 BSG meeting is that AGIP expects all units to have started the accreditation process by the summer of 2018. Not that all units should be accredited within the next year as that would be unrealistic. Although it is not currently mandatory, it is considered good practice, especially as IQIPS is now recognised by the CQC.

Three GI Physiology centres IQIPS accredited so far:

1. The Functional Gut Clinic, London.
2. Sheffield Teaching Hospitals [Northern General Hospital], Sheffield.
3. Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust [Castle Hill Hospital], Cottingham.

AGIP thinks that it is very important to make sure departments and individuals are always performing to the highest standards. The IQIPS process gives the opportunity to offer a service to a thorough assessment, receive valuable, constructive input from the IQIPS team on how to make a GI Physiology service even better and then implement these improvements. Obtaining accreditation status from UKAS and becoming an accredited GI Physiology Service should be high on the list for all GI Physiology departments. It is important to show

commissioners that departments are a recognised centre of excellence and that the best and appropriate care of patients is a priority.

IQIPS accreditation is a huge selling point for the service. Accreditation is the evidence that we strive to be the best and give the best care, in an appropriate environment and that all members of staff are proud to be part of the GI Physiology team.

AGIP encourages peers to consider IQIPS accreditation, we believe it will ensure that standards of clinical practice are up to date and patients are given the due care and attention they deserve. At some centres where accreditation is not high on the agenda the standards of operation may be lower. By going through, and hopefully achieving, the IQIPS accreditation process, more centres will be able to improve and update their practices, raising standards across the board. Meeting the highest possible standards is something we should all aim for as professionals and as a discipline. IQIPS is an invaluable experience to help departments continually improve and refine our service to patients, ensuring they continue to receive the best care possible.