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ACCREDITATION OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE DEPARTMENTS AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE TRAINING CENTRES

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1. Aims of the Committee

- To implement the introduction of an accreditation system in Europe.
- To give assistance and help to all nuclear medicine departments in Europe which apply for an accreditation.
- To develop criteria for an accreditation for NM Departments and Training Centres granted by the UEMS/EBNM.
- To verify the compliance with these criteria for a nuclear medicine facility and to recommend or not the grant of an appropriate certificate by the UEMS/EBNM.
- To develop and maintain a database of all nuclear medicine departments in Europe, which have got an accreditation or have applied for it.
- To maintain a Quality Manual with respect to the ISO 9001:2008 standard as a basis to create a specific Quality Management for an individual nuclear medicine facility and provide interested facilities with the Quality Manual in electronic form.
UEMS/EBNM ISO certification support software package
- To cooperate with other Committees and Task Groups of the EANM (www.eanm.org), the UEMS/EBNM (uems.eanm.org) and other outside organisations as well as to inform them about the activities of the Committee.

2. Accreditation process in general

The nuclear medicine facility, which applies for an accreditation, should fill out the online application form that can be found at www.uems.eanm.org >> Committees >> Accreditation Committee >> Application

After sending the application files, the UEMS/EBNM Office will forward these to the Chair of the UEMS/EBNM Committee for Accreditation of NM Departments and NM Training Centres.

Please note!

The accreditation system is a modular system:

You should apply first for accreditation of your department and if you wish also in the same step for accreditation as Training Center.

If your department fulfils the criteria for an accreditation, in the next step we check your application for an accreditation as Training Center.

To be certified by the European Board of Nuclear Medicine as a Training Center the department has to fulfil certain objective criteria concerning staff, equipment, number and spectrum of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, teaching and quality control, others are optional.

In summary, this means:

Departments that apply for accreditation as nuclear medicine department will be accredited as:

1- Department for Nuclear Medicine

or

2- Department for Nuclear Medicine and Training Center, if they fulfil the additional criteria as Training Center

3. Accreditation process – Nuclear Medicine Departments

The Committee can accept a quality system as valid, provided all items of the ISO 9001:2008 norm have been checked and validated by an external audit, or other external and/or internal **Quality Audits** according to national regulations.

- Documentation of the professional qualifications of medical staff. This may be accompanied by a short curriculum vitae. The minimum requirement for small departments is at least one qualified nuclear medicine physician (full-time equivalent).
- A list of services offered by the nuclear medicine facility and a list of available protocols adopted to supply these services. The centres should use the F-004A template **which could be downloaded** or is also provided by ISO-9000 software online on the UEMS/EBNM website. The protocols should describe how the procedure is actually performed in your department. They should comply with the current EANM or SNM guidelines as well as national regulations. If **this is not the case** then protocols should specify their origin. This should be accompanied by an indication of the total number of examinations performed in the last year and **detailed protocols of the five most frequently performed** in vivo examinations.
- The Committee will evaluate the application file and select at random five further examinations which are offered by the facility and request the detailed protocols for these examinations in addition to the five most commonly performed.

There are three possible outcomes from the application file:

- The Committee will recommend to the UEMS/EBNM Executive Committee that a nuclear medicine facility should receive accreditation and an appropriate certificate will be issued.
- There are minor deficiencies and the Committee will return the necessary papers to be corrected.
- There are major deficiencies in the application file, which will be conveyed to the applying nuclear medicine facility, and a full re-submission will be necessary after the major deficiencies have been corrected.

The Committee will not routinely undertake an accreditation or audit visit but retains the option to do so where the Committee thinks it is necessary.

The duration of the accreditation will be subject to continuing quality system certification.

4. Accreditation process – Training Centres

The certification is currently provided by questionnaire not by visiting but is intended to start visits in the near future.

Only centres that have been accredited and have national accreditation for training and offer their trainees the possibility to be trained according to the criteria listed in the syllabus of the UEMS/EBNM can be certified.

Where a centre does not practice certain diagnostic and/or therapeutic procedures it can be accredited only if it has a formal agreement with another accredited department to allow trainees to perform and become competent also in these methods.

Such an agreement must be officially certified by both participating centres and forwarded to the chair of the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Departments and NM-Training Centres Committee.

Departments that seek accreditation are asked to fill in the corresponding questionnaire (after filling out the accreditation form for Departments) and to submit it electronically.

The UEMS/EBNM Committee for Accreditation of NM Departments and NM Training Centres will check the information provided on training and recommend the accreditation to the Executive Committee of the UEMS/EBNM, after having obtained additional information, if necessary.

The list of centres fulfilling all criteria mandatory for accreditation is presented yearly at the UEMS/EBNM Clinical Audit Session taking place on the occasion of the EANM Annual Congress.

All current accredited departments and training centres are listed at www.uems.eanm.org.

5. Your benefit

The introduction of accreditation of Nuclear Medicine facilities could have the following benefits:

- To improve patient care by standardising quality of nuclear medicine facilities across Europe.
- Accreditation as a Training Center implies the fulfilling of minimum criteria defined by Syllabus Committee of UEMS/EBNM for teaching in nuclear medicine (physicians, radio pharmacists, physicists, technologists, etc.).
- It is a tool to improve the quality within the department.
- Clinical audit is required by the Council Directive 97/43 EURATOM and is the basis for accreditation.
- In some countries accreditation is necessary for reimbursement.

6. Registration fees

- Fee for 1st accreditation **€ 500.-**
- if also applicable as Training Centre: **€ 700.-**
- Fee for re-accreditation **€ 250.-**
- if also accredited as Training Centre: **€ 350.-**

Nuclear Medicine Departments - together with its Training Centres (if available) - have to be re-accredited every 5 years!

If your institute is already accredited as Nuclear Medicine Department and applies **afterwards** as Training Centres (for the first time!) the fee amounts to **€ 200.-**