

2021



ASMIRT

Guidelines

Breast Imaging Credentialling

Your profession. Your future.



There are a number of protected titles for medical radiation practice. They include:

Medical Radiation Practitioner (MRP)

Diagnostic Radiographer (DR)

Medical Imaging Technologist (MIT)

Radiographer

Nuclear Medicine Scientist (NMS)

Nuclear Medicine Technologist (NMT)

Radiation Therapist (RT).

For the purposes of our documentation we use the broad descriptor Medical Radiation Practitioner (MRP) recognising that it covers a range of areas of practice.



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Credentialed Course /Program

A credentialed course/program is one which has been reviewed and accepted by a recognized Credentialing agency and has met certain requirements as defined by the profession within the Breast Imaging Policy of the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT).

This document describes the requirements for Credentialing programmes in Mammography by the ASMIRT. This document provides information on the Credentialing requirements and procedures.

Breast Imaging Overview

In 1991, the then Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR) recognised Mammography as a specialty area and formed the Mammography Advisory Panel (MAP) as a committee of the then Council of the AIR to provide specialist advice and recommendations. The MAP produced a document “Education Policy of the AIR on Mammography and Mammography Screening” in 1992. This document was subsequently reviewed in 1997. Following a recommendation to the Council in 2001, the Mammography Advisory Panel changed its title to the Breast Imaging Advisory Panel (BIAP) to more accurately reflect the activities undertaken. In 2002, BIAP formulated the “Education Policy on Breast Imaging” which was incorporated in the AIR Education Policies. In 2005, the AIR reconfigured the advisory panels and the Breast Imaging and Ultrasound panels amalgamated to become the Medical Imaging Advisory Panel 2 (MIAP2). The Panel reviewed the Education Policy in October 2005 making minor adjustments. In 2014, MIAP2 made major revisions to reflect current educational practices and to make documentation and Credentialing in line with other modalities of the ASMIRT. In 2019, the ASMIRT Board created Committees and reference groups who are the experts in particular areas of interest and expertise that the Board utilise to assist when advocating for the profession and patients, and to better assist our members. As such the Breast imaging Reference Group (BIRG) was formed.

The ASMIRT considers breast imaging a specialty field and both radiographers and mammographic technologists may work in either / or both of two areas: diagnostic or screening. In addition, the ASMIRT recognises that some radiographers specialising in mammography may also wish to perform breast ultrasound as a specialty area. Postgraduate university courses are available to gain qualifications in this area and the Australasian Sonographer Accreditation Registry (ASAR) accredits courses and registers Accredited Breast Sonographers (ABS). The ASMIRT, which is represented on ASAR, supports this direction.

In the context of this document, Radiographers are one of a group of professionals that may be known collectively as the Health Science professions.

Radiographers have a qualification in Medical Radiation Science and bring both educational and professional attributes when enrolled in a programme of study in mammography. Mammography education is briefly addressed in Radiographer undergraduate and graduate-entry programmes where only an overview of the field is provided. Competency in mammography is not considered an essential requirement for registration with the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (MRPBA).

Specific in-depth knowledge in the specialty area is required to achieve and deliver best practice in the area of mammography. The ASMIRT has set standards for mammography programmes / programme providers and will credential programmes. Radiographers who satisfactorily complete such programmes are eligible to apply for a Certificate of Mammographic Practice (CMP) from the ASMIRT.

On completion of a mammography programme, radiographers should:

- Possess knowledge, clinical skills and personal attributes appropriate to the field of mammography.
- Demonstrate level of professional standards in mammography commensurate with the PPS Domain 3a: Knowledge and Understanding – Medical Imaging (2021).



Purpose of Credentialing by the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy

The purpose of Mammography programme Credentialing is to ensure:

- A national standard of mammography education and training is available for radiographers wishing to attain an excellence in clinical skills and advanced knowledge in this specialised field.
- Radiographers specialising in mammography possess understanding (knowledge, skills and attributes) appropriate for safe and effective contemporary professional practice.
- Radiographers specialising in mammography develop the skills for and a commitment to continuous improvement, professional development and ongoing competence in this speciality through active participation in a re-certification process.
- Certification of radiographers in this medical imaging speciality provides professional recognition for this advanced level of knowledge and skills.

Objectives of Professional Credentialing

The objectives of Credentialing by the profession are to ensure that:

- The academic standards are appropriate for contemporary professional practice.
- Radiographers specialising in mammography are sufficiently prepared to safely and effectively manage their professional roles and responsibilities.

The Credentialing process:

- Stimulates maintenance of high standards and continuing improvement in the quality of professional education in mammography.
- Provides a benchmark in mammography education for radiographers.
- Supports varied and flexible programmes that are aligned with the requirements of the professional workplace.
- Encourages programme developers to seek excellence in professional preparation.

Credentialing Process Overview

The Credentialing process of the course involves a comprehensive review of the programme, including detailed consideration of the academic and / or clinical practice components.

Distinct Credentialing processes exist within the ASMIRT for the review of new or previously uncredentialed programmes and the re-credentialing of existing programmes. Major revision or changes to existing credentialed programmes may necessitate a new review.

The Credentialing process will be conducted, against stated requirements in this document, by evaluation of submitted documentation. However, other methods such as on-site visits and interviews with past and present participants may also provide additional support for the Credentialing process.



Awards

Radiographers who have completed a credentialed mammography programme will be eligible to apply for an ASMIRT Certificate of Mammographic Practice (CMP). A statement of “satisfactory completion” is necessary for both the academic (theory) and clinical (practice) components of a mammography programme for the award to be granted

OTHER ELIGIBLE PRACTITIONERS

Graduates from the Graduate Diploma of Mammography (GDM) – Charles Sturt University (CSU) are not radiographers, however the program that these practitioners have undertaken, has been recognised as an equivalent alternative pathway for eligibility for a CMP. Graduates from the credentialed 2014 – 2016 and 2019 -2021 programs will be eligible for a CMP.

CMP certification is not available from 2021 for radiation therapists and nuclear medicine technologists and other allied health practitioners.

Programme Providers

Programmes in mammography shall be conducted by education providers that can demonstrate

- Educational and training standards.
- Resources – financial and human; including evidence of a Programme Coordinator (clinical or academic), with overall responsibility for programme delivery, possessing:
- Appropriate teaching/training qualifications as defined by the ASMIRT.
- Demonstrated breadth of expertise in teaching/training.
- Experience in supervising clinical courses (where clinical components are included).

For a separate Clinical practice component, or where clinical components are included in a combined programme:

- Tutor Radiographers will possess a current CMP and have recognised appropriate training qualifications (ie Cert IV for Training and Assessment) and demonstrated mammography experience of at least three years full time equivalent (FTE); Supervising radiographers will possess a current CMP and demonstrate mammography experience of at least 3 years FTE. (When this is not possible a radiologist with experience in mammography may act in this role).
- With both tutor and supervising radiographers, it is expected that they will be engaged with CPD activities around breast imaging and are able to provide a letter from the employer attesting to their role(s) and responsibilities around breast imaging. This letter can also include repeat rates to demonstrate the quality of images.

Credentialing Requirements

Mammography Programme structure

Programmes shall contain either or both academic and clinical components. The mode of delivery may be flexible, and the academic and clinical practice components may be combined or offered as separate components. However, all programme requirements must be included. Where the academic and clinical practice components are offered separately, radiographers should be able to complete one component offered by one programme provider and the second component offered by another. Programmes shall have stated learning outcomes and objectives, including clinical competence requirements.



Assessment methods for each component shall be clearly documented. In the following section, for the purpose of this document, Radiographers undertaking the mammography programs will be called students.

Programme design

Diversity in approaches to the design of programmes and teaching and learning methodologies is considered desirable and reflects the ASMIRT's commitment to ongoing quality improvement. The ASMIRT recognises that many different educational models exist, each influencing graduate characteristics and programme outcomes.

Credentialing review criteria

Key considerations in the Credentialing process

- Programme management and resources
- Programme approaches to teaching and learning
- Programme curriculum

Programme management and resources

- The programme has received endorsement from the ASMIRT. The programme embraces a philosophy of inter-professional understanding.
- The programme providers have clearly articulated and structured requirements for clinical mammography placement to the programme.
- The quality assurance and improvement programme is articulated and includes feedback mechanisms for students, educational providers and the professional community.
- Key stakeholders are consulted in relation to programme implementation, development and changes.
- A qualified, skilful, knowledgeable and experienced radiographer in mammography is essential to the professional running of the course.
- Effective delivery of the programme is supported by a sufficient number of appropriately qualified and experienced educators with relevant specialist knowledge.
- Academic / clinical facilitators are supported with appropriate resources to encourage ongoing professional development.
- Appropriate learning resources are readily available for students and academic staff.
- The programme's student grievance process is articulated and communicated to students.
- The programme's procedure for managing inappropriate student professional conduct is articulated and communicated to students. This may be associated with ASMIRT & AHPRA's code of conduct.

Programme approaches to teaching and learning

- The teaching and learning approaches are clearly articulated.
- The teaching and learning initiatives support the programme objectives.
- The programme staff are actively engaged in teaching and learning initiatives.
- The programme's objectives and approach to fulfilling the objectives are clearly articulated and communicated to students.

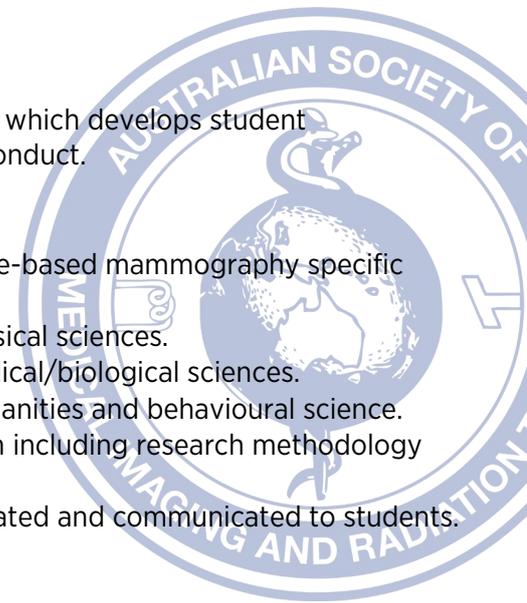
The outcomes upon completion of the course reflect attainment of the expected knowledge, understanding and skills described in the **CMP guidelines and this Breast Imaging Policy**.

Programme curriculum

Academic aspects of the curriculum are expected to be integrated into and applied in clinical practice. Specific elements relating to the professional practice programme are separated in these guidelines for clarity.



- The curriculum focuses on the integration of theory and practice.
- Patient well-being, welfare and safety are central to the curriculum which develops student understanding of professional expectations for performance and conduct.
- Learning outcomes are clearly articulated and assessed.
- The curriculum reflects contemporary professional practice.
- The curriculum develops knowledge and understanding of evidence-based mammography specific medical imaging theoretical foundations.
- The curriculum develops knowledge and understanding of the physical sciences.
- The curriculum develops knowledge and understanding of the medical/biological sciences.
- The curriculum develops knowledge and understanding of the humanities and behavioural science.
- The curriculum develops knowledge and understanding of research including research methodology and presentation.
- Requirements for student achievement and progression are articulated and communicated to students.



Clinical practice programme/Clinical Placement component

Students develop clinical skills in breast imaging reflective of the Scope of Practice in the 2021 PPS Domain 1; Standard 1.2 Practises to the standards of the profession, Standard 1.3 Fulfils the duty of care in clinical practice

- The teaching and learning requirements during clinical placement component respect patient rights and the needs of clinical professionals.
- Supervision, teaching and learning during the clinical placement component encourages safe and effective practice and promotes independent learning and critical thinking.
- The clinical placement component is monitored to ensure student progression in safe and supportive learning environments.
- Clinical placement components occur in facilities with an appropriate range of clinical experiences and patient case mix.
- The clinical placement component providers and clinical professionals collaborate and communicate regularly and effectively.
- Students and clinical professionals are appropriately prepared for professional practice placement including an understanding of the placement schedule, expected learning outcomes, expectations for performance & conduct, documentation & assessment requirements, roles & responsibilities and requirements for action in the case of unsatisfactory or inadequate performance.

Regardless of the delivery mode, the following areas of knowledge, skills and attitudes specific to mammography must be developed and assessed within the programmes:

- Imaging
- Physics
- Medical / Biological Sciences
- Behavioural Science
- Population Screening
- Clinical Education

Imaging

- Routine mammographic imaging
- Views, exposures, compression, clinical image evaluation, augmented breasts, problem solving
- Diagnostic assessment techniques
- Work-up views, stereotactic technique, Ultrasound, MRI Breast, CT, Tomosynthesis, CESM
- Clinical image review and interpretation



- Digital Imaging (DICOM, PACS, Pathways, RIS)
- New and emerging technologies
- Research

Physics

- Radiation physics (CR and DR)
- Radiation protection (radiation dose and relative risk)
- Equipment
- Factors affecting image quality
- Assessment of technical image quality
- Overall Quality Assurance
- Quality Control

Medical / Biological Sciences

- Breast Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology (including cytology and histology) Mammographic appearances
- Surface and skin conditions of the breast
- Genetics, interventional techniques, treatment options - surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy
- Other alterations to breasts - implants, tram flaps, silicon injections, etc
- Hormone replacement therapy
- Breast awareness (self-examination and clinical examination)
- Infection Control

Behavioural Science

- Consent information and client preparation
- Communication and counselling
- Stress management
- Workplace health and safety issues
- Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)
- LGBTI diversity

Population Screening

- Epidemiology of breast cancer
- Population screening
- Diagnostic versus screening mammography
- High Risk Screening
- Risks versus benefits
- Psychological aspects of screening
- Medico-legal aspects

MAMMOGRAPHY CLINICAL EDUCATION

The clinical practice component should be conducted at sites with a significant throughput (no less than 16 women daily/ 5 days a week) to accommodate diagnostic facilities to allow exposure to a variety of cases. It will be structured to include:

- Practical quality assurance for mammographic and IT equipment.
- Performance of a minimum of 50 mammographic examinations under direct supervision of a

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- nominated tutor radiographer.
- Evaluation of clinical images.
- Participation in and / or observation of diagnostic work up or BreastScreen assessment clinics.

Following the initial training, ongoing competency in mammographic imaging shall be assessed by clinical image evaluation of a random selection of 25 images following a further 200 supervised mammograms performed in the workplace.

Competency in mammographic imaging and client interaction shall be formally assessed. This consists of:

- Tutor and/or Supervisor reports
- Written assignments
- Self-assessment reports
- Clinical image evaluation reports
- Client surveys
- Reflective writing/journals



Guidelines for Credentialing and Re-credentialing of Programmes in Mammography

Credentialing of mammography programmes is valid for a three-year period. Re-credentialing for a further three-year period will be considered upon receipt of appropriate documentation.

Credentialing

The BIRG will recommend a programme be credentialed based on the documentation supplied and evidence of the academic and clinical practice components of the programme.

Initial Credentialing of any programme MUST be obtained from the ASMIRT prior to its implementation.

Re-Credentialing

Applications for re-credentialing shall be considered based on current programme documentation and evidence of a formal evaluation and review process of the programme. An audit of previous programme participants and documentation may be undertaken.

Every three years, educational providers offering credentialed mammography programmes are required to submit a programme update using the template Appendix 1. Continued credentialing of the programme is contingent upon the submission of these updates. This update provides key information relating to student enrolments, programme amendments, academic staff and quality management.

The ASMIRT reserves the right to withdraw Credentialing if advised by the BIRG that the conduct of the programme / module has not been in accordance with the submitted documentation.

Conditional Credentialing

Conditional Credentialing based on specific circumstances may be considered. This may apply at the written request of the programme provider or on the recommendation of the BIRG. Evidence is required of the programme provider working towards meeting the structure and content requirements of the programmes to obtain full Credentialing.

Extension to Credentialing

An extension to programme credentialing may be considered upon the written request of the programme provider. A period of not more than six months may be granted dependent on the circumstances. Evidence of the programme provider continuing to meet the structure and content requirements for programmes should also be provided.



Criteria for Credentialing

In addition to the details previously outlined, the breast imaging reference group will examine in detail the following areas:

- An academic component provided in the range of 30 to 40 hours.
- A clinical practice component provided in the range of 30 to 40 directly supervised clinical contact hours.
- The stated aims and objectives of the programme with learning outcomes.

Information provided to the breast imaging reference group shall include:

- Details on the programme provider.
- Details on the staff and facilities available for each of the academic and clinical practice components.
- Documentation on the content, structure and organisation of each module (if provided separately), including workbooks, manuals and other learning aids.
- Details on the assessment methods (for both components).

Template 1: Mammography Course Credentialing Checklist

MAMMOGRAPHY COURSE CREDENTIALING CHECKLIST

Credentialing of mammography courses is valid for a three-year period. The BIRG will recommend a course be credentialed based on review of documentation and evidence of the academic and clinical practice components of the course demonstrating the processes detailed below.

Renewal of course credential can be sought for a further three years with submission of appropriate documentation and confirmation that course has not substantially changed - see template below.

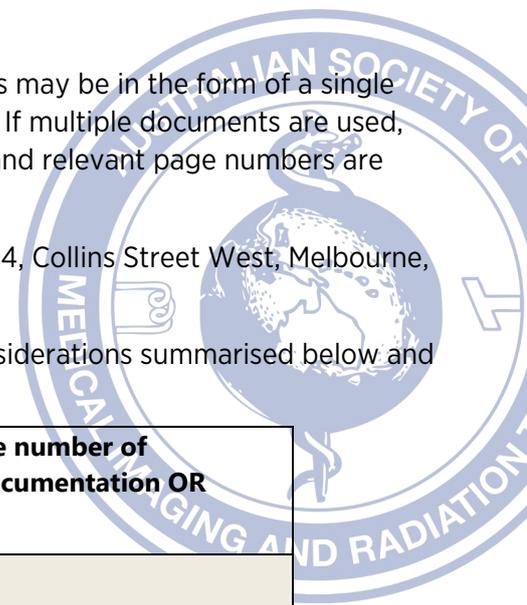
Course Provider Name			
Course Structure		Academic component only	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Clinical component only	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Combined course	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email address			
Postal address			
Telephone		Application date	
Indicate which mammography Credentialing status is being sought:		Credentialing	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Re-Credentialing	<input type="checkbox"/>



Applications should be submitted to certification@asmirt.org . Applications may be in the form of a single searchable PDF document or as a collection of individual PDF documents. If multiple documents are used, please ensure that relevant hyperlinks OR that details of document name and relevant page numbers are included in the template.

Applications may be submitted via Dropbox or USB to BIRG, P.O. Box 16234, Collins Street West, Melbourne, Vic, 8007

Applications for course credentialing must address each of the review considerations summarised below and supporting documentation must be submitted.

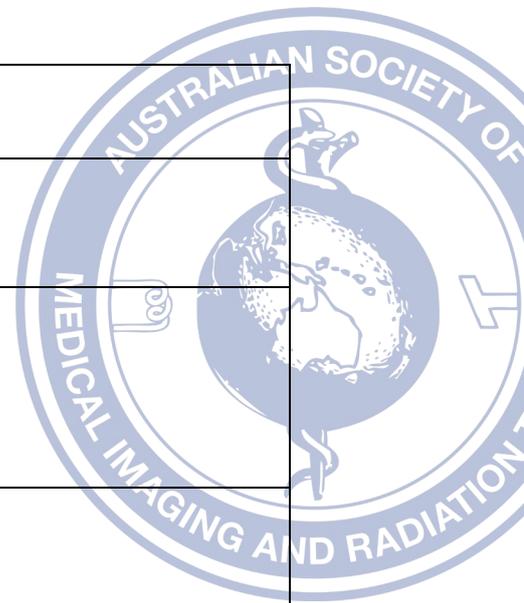


Details OR Title and page number of appended supporting documentation OR hyperlink

General course details and background	
A1 Brief programme description	
A2 Programme handbook	
A3 Programme approval from the ASMIRT	
A4 Summary of programme changes (if applicable)	
Course approaches to teaching and learning	
B1 Programme teaching and learning approaches	
B2 Programme aims / objectives	
B3 Learning outcomes for participants	
Course curriculum	
C1 Outlines for all units of study, including learning objectives, overview of content, teaching and learning activities, assessment and weightings, prescribed texts and references.	
C2 Programme academic and clinical practice component calendar	
C3 Statements articulating requirements for participants achievement and progression	
C4 Professional practice framework, including skills/competency expectations and skill progression	
C5 Samples of documentation, including clinical handbook and clinical workbooks	
C6 Overview of clinical practice component assessment, including samples of assessment and patient/client interaction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutor and/or Supervisor reports • Written assignments • Self-assessment reports 	



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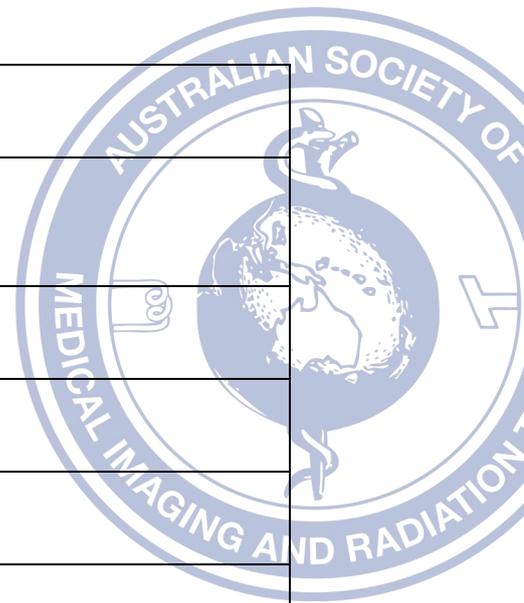
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical image evaluation reports • Client surveys 	
<p>C7 Summary of documentation provided to clinical centres for student placements including samples of communication</p>	
<p>C8 Overview of clinical practice component matching and management, including details demonstrating that the clinical learning environment and experiences are aligned with students' progress through the programme</p>	
<p>C9 Overview of clinical practice component monitoring and feedback mechanisms for clinical placements</p>	
<p>C10 Evidence 30-40 hours academic component as related to mammography specifically:</p> <p>Imaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine mammographic imaging - Views, exposures, compression, clinical image evaluation, augmented breasts, problem solving • Diagnostic assessment techniques, Work-up views, stereotactic technique, ultrasound, MRI breast, CT, Tomosynthesis, CESM • Clinical image review and interpretation • Digital Mammography (DICOM, PACS, Pathways, RIS) • New and emerging technologies • Research <p>Physics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiation physics (CR and DR) • Radiation protection (radiation dose and relative risk) • Equipment • Factors affecting image quality • Assessment of technical image quality • Overall quality assurance • Quality control <p>Medical / Biological Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breast Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology (including cytology and histology) • Mammographic appearances surface and skin conditions of the breast 	





<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetics, interventional techniques, treatment options - surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy • Other alterations to breasts – implants, tram flaps, silicon injections etc • Hormone replacement therapy • Breast awareness (self-examination and clinical examination) • Infection Control <p>Behavioural Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent information and client preparation • Communication and counselling • Stress management • Workplace health and safety issues • Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) • LGBTI diversity <p>Population Screening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemiology of breast cancer • Population screening • Diagnostic versus screening mammography • High risk screening • Risks versus benefits • Psychological aspects of screening • Medico-legal aspects 	
<p>A clinical practice component provided in the range of 30 to 40 directly supervised clinical contact hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical quality assurance for mammographic and processing equipment • Performance of a minimum of 50 mammographic examinations under direct supervision • Evaluation of clinical images • Participation in and observation of diagnostic assessments 	
<p>Ongoing Competency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical image evaluation of 25 random selection of images following a further 200 supervised mammograms performed in the workplace 	
<p>Course management and resources</p>	





D1 Overview of programme quality management and feedback mechanisms	
D2 Programme performance, including demand, enrolments, progress and programme experience questionnaires	
D3 Summary of programme evaluation results, including student evaluation	
D4 Summary of unit of study/module evaluation results, including student evaluation	
D5 Summary of teaching evaluation results, including student evaluation	
<p>D6 Staff profile or brief CV for all mammography course co-ordinators, tutor radiographers and supervisors: including appointment, fraction and qualifications</p> <p>Course Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate teaching/training qualifications as defined by ASMIRT • Demonstrated breadth of expertise in teaching/training • Experience in supervising clinical courses (where clinical components are included) <p>Tutor Radiographers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will possess a current CMP • have training qualifications • demonstrated mammography experience of at least three years FTE <p>Supervisors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will be radiographers who possess a current CMP and three years FTE (where this is not possible a radiologist with experience in mammography may act in this role) 	
D8 Overview of programme learning resources and infrastructure	
D9 Summary of student support services and facilities	
D11 Policies relating to management of inappropriate conduct	





Re-credentialing

(With significant changes)

An application for re-credentialing of a course that has been significantly changed in structure or content will be assessed as if it was a new course. (As above)

Re-credentialing

(With no significant changes)

An application for re credentialing with no significant changes to course structure or content will require details of the changes to delivery /content of course to be identified in the documentation submitted for review.

Requirements	Requirement met
Course documentation with evidence of the course provider continuing to meet the structure and content requirements	
Formal evaluation and review process of the course	
Audit of previous course documents – eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course documentation and amendments • Dates of courses provided • Participant attendance and certification 	

Mammography Course Credentialing recommended: Yes / No (please circle)

If No, please detail areas to be more fully addressed in a subsequent application.

Comments:.....
.....
.....

BIRG Member Signature:.....

BIRG Member Name:.....

Date:.....





Template 2: Re-Credentialing Time Frame

Re-Credentialing review

The re-credentialing process for credentialed programmes involves a re-credentialing review.

