



QUALITY MATTERS

An NQMC update: April 2021

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BSA National Surveyor Update

Virtual accreditation surveys (VAS)

The big item for the BSA Accreditation Program for this quarter is undoubtedly virtual accreditation surveys.

The first two a virtual accreditation surveys were successfully undertaken with BSV Maroondah being the pioneer having its survey in March and BSN Northern Sydney Central Coast following closely in April 2021. Congratulations and well done to these Services and to BreastScreen Victoria and BreastScreen NSW, and their staff including PACS Managers and IT Managers, for their committed efforts in preparing for this whole new way of undertaking accreditation surveys. Without your input, guidance, expertise and assistance, the virtual surveys would not have been possible. Thank you.

Special thanks must also go to the Survey Team members without whose dedication, expertise and extraordinary efforts, the key survey components of the image review and image quality review would not have been

possible. Thank you for your leadership and commitment.

It's been a steep learning curve for all involved and the surveys were not without their challenges in the virtual environment! The surveys were, however, completed and all survived – some said by the end of it that they actually enjoyed it!

I am conducting regular virtual accreditation survey (VAS) forums for staff of Services and SCUs whose accreditation survey is scheduled in 2021. Feedback from these has been quite positive and participants are enjoying meeting new colleagues and hearing new or different ways of doing things. Problems are identified and solutions shared in these safe, informal, online forums.

In addition, staff from the Services/SCUs who have completed their virtual accreditation survey usually attend to share their experiences and provide tips to those who haven't yet been surveyed. Key points and tips are circulated shortly after the meeting so that participants can all share in the learnings and benefit from them as quickly as possible. This process of peer learning illustrates the inherent collegial nature of the BreastScreen Program and is a credit to all who participate.

The entire survey program for 2021 is to be undertaken virtually so the more we can share and learn from each other, the better.

A wide variety of staff can attend so if you are interested, please contact me via my details at the end of this section and I'll add you to the list.

Key documents and updates

[Virtual Accreditation Survey Guides](#)

Three Survey Guides are available to assist Services/SCUs with preparation for their virtual accreditation survey covering requirements for survey scheduling,

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documentation and evidence and audio-visual and imaging. These are living documents and feedback has been that Services find them helpful in their preparation for accreditation.

Survey Management protocols

A revised version of the Screening Unit Survey Management Protocol was approved by NQMC at its meeting of 5 March 2021.

National Survey Plan 2021-2025

A revised version of the National Survey Plan 2021-2025 was approved by the NQMC at its meeting of 5 March 2021.

Copies of all of the above can be obtained by contacting me on the email or phone number below.

New Surveyor Recruitment and Training

Thank you to the many interested individuals who have contacted me expressing interest in becoming a Surveyor.

Recruitment and training is currently paused and once it commences again, calls for expressions of interest will be widely advertised, including through Quality Matters. The next training program will also cover training in undertaking virtual accreditation surveys.

Surveyor remuneration

In recognition of the move to the additional components associated with virtual accreditation surveys, approval from the NQMC and support from the Program Management Group was given for increasing the honorarium payment from one day to two days. Current remuneration rates may be found on the Remuneration Tribunal website. Please contact me for details.

Thanks to all the staff of BreastScreen, especially all the frontline workers, who continue to serve the community during this COVID19 pandemic.

Stay safe.

As always, feel free to contact me anytime on 0409 883 255 or at nationalsurveyor@jbapl.com.au

Joan Burns

National Surveyor

BSA information update

Clinical Advisory Committee

The PMG has endorsed the Clinical Advisory Committee's advice on the Management of women with neoplasia diagnosed on needle core biopsy of a screen detected breast lesions and Screening women with cosmetic breast augmentation.

The above advice is not currently on the Australian Government Department of Health website. In the interim, if you would like a copy, you can contact the BSA PMG Secretariat at bsa.secretariat@ahaconsulting.com.au.

BSA Accreditation Documents and Forms

Services and SCUs are reminded that all BSA documents and forms are available in their latest version on the Department of Health website. The most failsafe method to ensure you are using the correct version is to always download the required form each time it is needed, rather than refer to older saved copies.

NQMC Membership

Ms Georgina Upton has been appointed as the new NQMC Radiographer Proxy.

Ms Kim Coulter attended her final meeting as Jurisdictional Appointed Member on 5 March 2021. Ms Cynthia Leal is in the process of being appointed as the new Jurisdictional Appointed Member and will attend her first NQMC meeting in this role on the 28 May 2021.

BreastScreen Australia – Research and other activities

A summary of current BreastScreen Australia research and other projects managed by the Commonwealth Department of Health is available on the [Department of Health](#) website. This summary is updated periodically.