

**Addendum to the National Accreditation Standards
(to replace existing information on DICOM for Appendix W on
page 217)**

APPENDIX W

DICOM

Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) standard is used in the field of medical informatics to exchange digital information between medical imaging modalities and other medical image management systems. The function of DICOM is to ensure interoperability between these systems. It was originally developed by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) and the American College of Radiology. It is now controlled by the DICOM Standards Committee, and supports a wide range of medical images across the fields of radiology, cardiology, pathology and dentistry. Imaging modalities and image management systems have to be DICOM compliant. For screening mammograms, assessment mammograms and ultrasounds the DICOM header that carries information about the DICOM image must carry the client's full name and identification number, the date and time of the mammographic and/or ultra sound examination, the name of who performed the examination, the practice where it was performed. For Digital Radiography (DR) technology the DICOM header for mammography images must also include technical examination details including compressed breast thickness, side markers, positional markers, kVp, anode and filter type, tube-current-time product (mAs) and an estimate of dose. These technical examination requirements are advisory for Computed Radiography (CR) technology until 2015. As of 2015 onwards all CR units will be required to meet the technical examination requirements, with the exception of estimate of dose.