

# IMRT Credentialing - Executive Summary

- The purpose of this report is to examine the different techniques used by cooperative groups responsible for radiation therapy in NCI sponsored clinical trials to credential institutions to participate in protocols that use the advanced technology called IMRT. The various methodologies used by the different QA Centers active in the US have been identified and are described in this report. The drafters of this document were not able to identify any reports from individual clinical institutions or professional organizations that are directly relevant to the topic discussed herein. It is the consensus of the drafters of this document that all clinical trial protocols that include the advanced technology of IMRT must utilize some form of credentialing that is aimed at determining the ability of participating institutions to implement particular technologies.

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- This credentialing might use any number of different approaches to make this determination. In addition to phantom irradiation and benchmark planning exercises, it is also possible to use a questionnaire that records information about the institution's past experience with these technologies. This report has not reached consensus as to the exact credentialing procedure that should be selected for a particular protocol. The difficulty in obtaining consensus is related to the general lack of data supporting a single solution to the problem of credentialing for clinical trials protocols, and the difficulty of accommodating the many different forces that come into play as worldwide protocols gain popularity. Thus, it is the recommendation of this working group that research aimed at answering this important question be carried out over the next few years.