

Criterion 8.17: Each provider has qualified pathologists

Elements

- 8.17.1 A pathologist involved in BSA will be medically qualified and registered to practise in New Zealand. All BSA pathologists should hold recognised postgraduate qualifications in pathology and be enrolled on the New Zealand Medical Council's Vocational Register in anatomic or general pathology.
- 8.17.2 Participating pathologists must be enrolled in the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia's CPD scheme and complete the appropriate requirements for participation in the programme.
- 8.17.3 Every three years participating pathologists must submit evidence to the Unidisciplinary Pathologists Group that they have attended national and/or international pathology meetings or conferences with a component on breast pathology. They should demonstrate that they have participated in the breast pathology components for a total of at least six educational hours over the preceding three years.
- 8.17.4 BSA pathologists must report on a minimum of 50 patient biopsy episodes from assessment clinics or open diagnostic biopsies within the programme per annum. Each tissue sample is counted as a separate episode and, if double signed, counts as an episode for each signing pathologist.
- 8.17.5 BSA pathologists must attend a minimum of eight BSA multidisciplinary meetings each year while ensuring that a BSA-accredited pathologist is present at each multidisciplinary meeting to present and comment on relevant pathology.
- 8.17.6 Pathologists in training may undertake gross and microscopic descriptions of screen-detected lesions, but the material must be reviewed and signed out by a BSA pathologist.
- 8.17.7 Pathologists reporting on screen-detected lesions should have sufficient exposure to relevant material to develop and maintain competence in the reporting of such cases. The lead pathologist should endeavour to make material from larger assessment centres available to pathologists working with smaller volumes as a teaching/learning resource.
- 8.17.8 All BSA pathologists must be enrolled and participate in the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia's Quality Assurance Program (QAP). BSA pathologists must participate on an individual rather than a laboratory basis and complete five surveys every two years. The results of participation in the QAP scheme must be recorded and provided to the programme by the Lead pathologist and be available for external audit as required.
- 8.17.9 All participating laboratories should be enrolled in the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Anatomical Pathology quality assurance programme.