



# New assessment approach for accrediting multi-site facilities





# **Introducing NATA's new assessment approach for Accrediting multi-site facilities**

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**A revision of the current  
Corporate Accreditation process**

A group of business professionals in a meeting room, looking at documents on a table. The scene is dimly lit with a blue color cast. The text 'Why change?' is overlaid in large, bold, light blue letters. Below the text is a thick orange horizontal bar.

# Why change?

Based on feedback received from our  
members over the years:

A man with a beard and long hair is lying in bed at night, looking at a clock. The scene is dimly lit, with a blue tint. The man is wearing a dark shirt and is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. A clock is visible on a bedside table in the foreground, showing the time as approximately 10:10. The background shows a bed with white sheets and a dark pillow.

Such an approach has already been established for our Human Pathology (ISO 15189) accreditation program implemented in December 2020 and has been in place for some time for our

**Sleep Disorders Services accreditation program**

# Qualifying criteria



These remain unchanged as per the current  
Corporate Accreditation policy

**1**

a single management system must be implemented across all sites

**2**

one NATA Authorised Representative must be appointed

**3**

a primary (or core) site must be identified

**4**

the relevant accreditation criteria must be implemented at each site

**5**

action taken to any non-conformity(ies) identified during an assessment of any site must consider all other applicable sites

# Key changes



A tailored assessment program will be developed for each multi-site facility that maintains a single accreditation

**1**

will be based on how the facility is structured and processes managed

**2**

will be confirmed prior to the commencement of each accreditation cycle

A man and a woman wearing orange hard hats are in a factory or industrial setting. The woman is pointing towards the right, and the man is looking in the same direction. They are both holding documents. A digital network overlay of glowing blue lines and dots is visible in the background. The overall scene is dimly lit with a blue tint.

# Assessment Program

**The program will identify the activities / services covered by the scope of accreditation to be reviewed at each assessment**

# The facility will be treated as one entity



Sampling of the scope of accreditation across all sites will occur

**1**

if applicable, the assessment program will take into account the needs of regulatory arrangements or other arrangements the facility may have in place with any of its customers

There will be a revised process for handling additions to the scope of accreditation

**2**

if the facility has a centrally managed process for adding the same activity to more than one site then

- a sampling approach to assess the additions may be adopted
- assessment will include how the facility manages the roll-out of the additions to the sites concerned



# The accreditation cycle



**1**

## Pre-Cycle Questionnaire

will collect information to establish the assessment program prior to each accreditation cycle

**2**

## Assessment Frequency

will each site falling under the accreditation will undergo a reassessment

*- the primary site identified by the facility will be the first to be assessed during the accreditation cycle and include review of the management system*

the facility can expect at least one assessment every 2 years

*- more frequently dependent on the number of sites (which will be the case for the majority of facilities)*

**3**

## Assessment Program

the assessment program can be modified during the cycle (e.g. if significant changes occur, identification of significant N/Cs)

**4**

## No surveillance visits

these will no longer be performed for multi-site accreditations.

**5**

## Client Engagement

mid-cycle and end of cycle client engagement activity

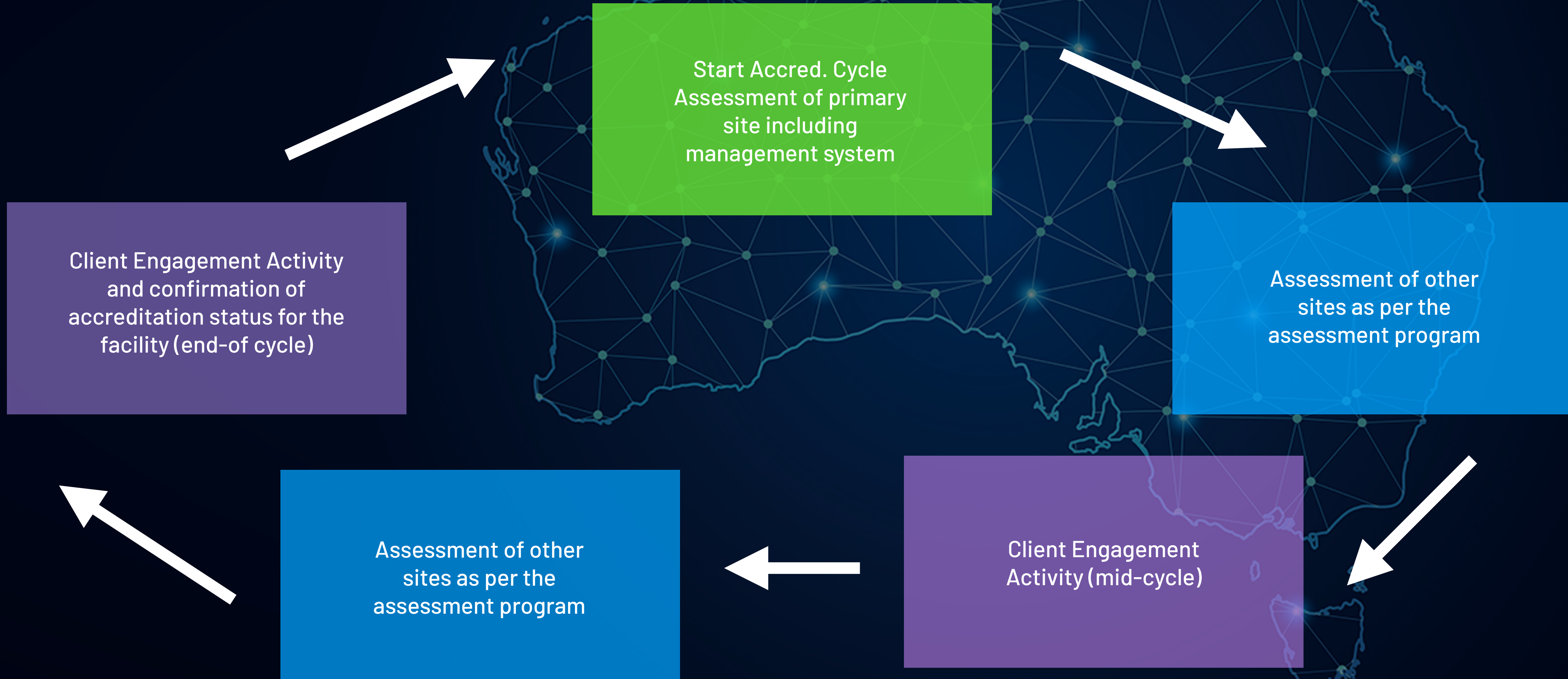
**6**

## Remote Assessments

use of remote assessments in defined situations

# Assessment Program

## The accreditation cycle



# Benefits to members



**1**

Tailored  
assessment  
program

**2**

Reducing  
unnecessary  
duplication in  
assessment  
effort

**3**

centrally  
managed  
process

**4**

a summary  
report of  
assessment  
findings

**5**

Streamlined  
process for  
handling  
requests for  
changes

# Next steps

1

To be included in each NATA Accreditation Criteria package

-New: **General Accreditation Criteria: Accreditation of multi-site facilities**  
-Updated: **Application for changes to the scope of accreditation**

2

Existing corporate accredited facilities will transition to the new multi-site accreditation model at the time when their primary site is next due for assessment from January 2023

3

A facility may

-**transition earlier than scheduled date for primary site, if it chooses**  
-**not transition and revert to separate accreditation for each of its sites**





# Further information

Send an email to:

**[multisite@nata.com.au](mailto:multisite@nata.com.au)**

If you have any general questions in relation to the new policy and/or revised process for accrediting multi-site facilities.

Contact your **NATA client coordinator** if you have questions specific to your facility



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