

Frequently asked questions about BICEP

Q. What is BICEP?

A. BICEP stands for **Breast Imaging Clinical Education Program**.

The Breast Imaging Clinical Education Program (BICEP) is a continuing professional development initiative of BreastScreen NSW, developed in collaboration with the University of Newcastle and the University of Sydney.

The program has been accredited by the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT). The BICEP is one component of the Certificate of Mammographic Practice (CMP).

Q. What are the prerequisites for the program?

A. Must be:

- registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) as a diagnostic radiographer, hold a current NSW Radiation Licence and have a current radiation monitor
- associated with a NSW Breast screening service and have recent experience in breast imaging of not less than six months
- able to attend a nominated breast screening facility for a minimum period of 35 hours to complete directly supervised activities, ideally to be completed within one working week, may be completed over two weeks by negotiation with the on-site tutor and Lead Radiographer BreastScreen NSW.
- able to complete a minimum of 200 mammograms within a four-month timeframe.

Q. What does the program entail?

A. The program requires completion of:

- Learning Contract
- 50 mammograms directly supervised by a BreastScreen NSW Tutor Radiographer
- Quality assurance assignment
- 200 mammograms supervised by a Supervisor Radiographer, Tutor radiographer or radiologist
- Reflective journal
- Workbook activities and documentation.

Q. Are there exams or assessments applicable to the program?

A. There is a written quality assurance assignment. There are three image quality reviews to be conducted with the tutor radiographer and two quality of care/proficiency assessments.

Q. How long will it take to complete?

A. All components of the course must be completed within four months of the nominated start date.

Q. How do I enrol?

A. Enrolment forms are obtained from the SAS Designated Radiographer (located on BSNSW Radiography Teams channel)

Completed forms are to be submitted to the State Co-ordination Unit signed by the SAS Designated Radiographer with a confirmed start date.

The BICEP manual and log books will then be emailed on receipt of a signed application.

Q. What if I don't work for BreastScreen?

A. The BICEP is intended for diagnostic radiographers performing breast imaging at BreastScreen NSW Screening and Assessment Services, private practices, public and private hospitals.

Radiographers not employed by a BreastScreen service may contact the BSNSW Lead Radiographer for contact details of their nearest BreastScreen service.

Q. What is the cost?

A. There are no out of pocket costs to radiographers employed by, or contracted to, BreastScreen NSW.

Q. What happens if I can't complete within the timeframe?

A. Where the Radiographer-in-training may be unable to complete their workbook within the proposed timeframe, due to unforeseen circumstances, an extension may be granted.

Guidelines for requesting an extension are in the manual. The application must include a proposed completion plan outlined by the tutor radiographer and signed by the SAS designated radiographer.

It must be approved by the BSNSW Lead radiographer, and all correspondence included with the workbook for final review.

Only one extension may be requested during the workbook phase.

Q. How can I get more information?

A. BreastScreen NSW website: www.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au/information-for-health-professionals/careers-and-professional-development/

ASMIRT website: www.asmirt.org/certification#a4

BreastScreen NSW Lead Radiographer

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