

Representatives of IVD companies are often required to enter hospitals and other health care facilities for many different reasons, including: training pathologists and diagnostic professionals on the safe and effective use of IVDs, demonstrating new and advanced technologies that can improve outcomes and increase system sustainability, or servicing vitally important diagnostic equipment. The members of IVD Australia operate in the Australian healthcare system in partnership with the medical and diagnostic communities based on the strong foundation of the industry's (IVD Australia's) Code of Conduct¹ and are deeply committed to patient safety.

IVD Australia understands the desire by some healthcare institutions to implement credentialing requirements in order to coordinate admission to certain areas of their facilities by suppliers and external contractors.

IVD Australia Position on An Australian National Standard

IVD Australia fully endorses the development of an Australian National Standard for Vendor Credentialing.

An Australian National Standard will be an efficient, effective, and reasonable solution that allows for healthcare providers who have adopted the standard to log onto a password protected website in order to view attestations by vendor companies who have completed the requirements of the Standard. It will:

- create consistency
- avoid the excessive and unnecessary duplication and resulting costs experienced
- be adaptable by virtue of Standard Australia's position, it is a perfect forum for the evolution of the standard if laws and practices change over time

The Standard will need to incorporate specific IVD Industry requirements.

The Standard will provide consistency and ensure that the privacy and human rights of supplier representatives are respected, while allowing Australian IVD Suppliers to achieve their credentialing objectives without unnecessary costs. It is for these reasons that IVD Australia fully endorses an Australian National Standard for Vendor Credentialing.

¹ IVD Australia Code of Conduct, <http://ivd.org.au/about-us/code-of-conduct/>

IVD Australia Position on Vendor Credentialing in Australia

For those that have chosen to implement vendor credentialing programs, some hospitals are utilising third party companies to manage these programs.

In healthcare facilities where credentialing is required, the credentialing process can be complicated and may include vendor training, health and safety training and background checks.

The system of third party hospital vendor credentialing is relatively new in Australia, but has existed in the US for a number of years. Although there is no clear evidence of the benefits of vendor credentialing in the US, it is clear that the inconsistency of credentialing requirements across various health care facilities, as well as the cost of implementation has created an unnecessarily large burden on the healthcare system.

In Australia, the process of collecting and storing data for any credentialing system is influenced by a number of laws in the areas of privacy and human rights. These legal considerations, as well as the awareness of the aforementioned issues involving the vendor credentialing experience in the US, led to the effort to establish a vendor credentialing standard in Australia through Standards Australia.

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About IVD Australia: **IVD Australia** is the peak body representing the IVD Industry, including companies who manufacture and supply in vitro-diagnostics in Australia. In vitro, literally “in glass” diagnostics (IVDs) comprise the instruments and reagents that are used to perform pathology tests requested by General Practitioners, specialist Physicians and other healthcare practitioners. These tests are generally performed in accredited Public and Private pathology laboratories across Australia, but IVDs also include point-of-care tests such as HIV test kits, blood glucose meters for diabetes testing and home pregnancy test kits.