

FAQ's for Benchmarks

Where do I find information regarding IROC RI benchmarks?

Detailed information regarding benchmarks is available on our website on the Benchmark page.

My institution is opening a new protocol. Do I need to repeat any benchmarks?

Successful completion of a required IROC benchmark satisfies the requirement for that benchmark in any NCI sponsored protocol that is reviewed by IROC RI.

We have just commissioned a new treatment planning system. Do I need to repeat any benchmarks?

IROC no longer requires that credentialing be repeated for a new treatment planning system.

We have a new treatment machine. Do I need to repeat the benchmark?

No, your institution will not need to repeat credentialing steps for a new treatment machine. Tomotherapy and Cyberknife are exceptions to this rule and must be credentialed individually. A protocol may specifically require additional credentialing such as irradiation of a new phantom or IGRT credentialing.

My institution has an approved benchmark from IROC Houston. Does IROC RI accept these?

Approval of any phantom irradiation or benchmark by IROC Houston applies to any NCI protocol that may require it. The specifics of what credentialing tests are required for a particular protocol will be listed in the protocol.

My institution has an IMRT approval for our planning system, but now we want to plan with rotational IMRT. Do we need to repeat the credentialing steps?

IROC no longer requires repeat credentialing for rotational IMRT (VMAT). Approval for IMRT using fixed gantry angles will also apply to VMAT and vice versa. Tomotherapy is an exception to this rule and must be credentialed individually.

My site has an IMRT lung phantom approval from IROC Houston. Is this acceptable for use of IMRT in any protocol?

Some protocols may require successful irradiation of the IROC Houston lung phantom, but the lung phantom is not in general a substitute for the head and neck phantom. At this time, only the successful completion of the IMRT Head and Neck phantom from IROC Houston is accepted for IMRT credentialing by IROC RI. Approval of the IMRT Benchmark is also accepted as IMRT credentialing for some protocols.

How do I find out if we are credentialed for a particular protocol?

To find out if you are credentialed for a particular protocol, you should fill out a Credentialing Status Inquiry form on the [IROC Houston website](#). A member of the IROC staff will contact you to let you know if you have met the credentialing requirements or if additional items need to be completed.