

Since the last NMQAAC meeting, there have been a number of issues that have come up that would benefit from the committee's input. Please be prepared to discuss these issues during the meeting.

1. With the increasing use of softcopy interpretation, questions have arisen about the most appropriate way to score softcopy phantoms. The question for the committee is; should artifacts still be subtracted when scoring softcopy phantoms?
2. In screen-film systems, failures of the x-ray field/light field/image receptor/compression paddle alignment tests require correction within 30 days. That has been extended to FFDM systems through the use of approved alternative standards. Some manufacturers have added a "Missed breast tissue on the chest wall side" test, although how the test is performed may vary between manufacturers. Should this have a 30 day correction period or an immediate correction before further imaging is done?
3. Under the current regulations, quality control (QC) testing for FFDM and newer technology systems is specified by the different manufacturers. Uniform standards are being developed but until they can be implemented, does the committee have suggestions on how FDA should deal with the differences between manufacturers? For example, one manufacturer may require that a specific QC test be performed on a daily basis while another may require it on a weekly basis.
4. Some States have required or are considering requiring that breast density be included in the mammography report and lay summary, along with recommendations on actions that should be considered in patients with dense breasts. We expect that you will hear more about this topic during the open public speaker portion of the meeting. FDA will be seeking the committee's advice on whether to require reporting breast density in all mammography reports and lay summaries and possible ways of presenting such information in a way that would be most beneficial to referring physicians and patients.