

EDX LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

Clinical excellence in electrodiagnostic medicine



“AANEM Laboratory Accreditation enables payers to be confident that their payments are made to appropriately trained providers who use the highest quality equipment. This ensures patient safety, best quality, lowest cost, and avoidance of fraudulent services.”

Peter Q. Warinner, MD, former EDX Laboratory Accreditation Committee Chair

Accreditation ensures that a laboratory is dedicated to achieving the highest standards for patient care. For more information on the AANEM accreditation program or to find an accredited laboratory, visit www.aanem.org/accreditation or email accreditation@aanem.org

LABORATORY
ACCREDITATION
CAN HELP



STOP
FRAUD



“Initially, I thought EDX Lab Accreditation was going to be a lot of work, but following the accreditation checklist was easy. It was a worthwhile process to ensure our EMG lab was in line with accreditation standards. I’m pleased to say that now we are an accredited lab with exemplary status.”

Douglas M. Pavlak, MD

LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROVIDES CONTINUED QUALITY ASSURANCE

The process used by the AANEM assures that the laboratory has demonstrated a level of competence to perform EDX testing and that the laboratory will continue to provide those standards.

AANEM’S ACCREDITATION PROCESS

- 1 Laboratory applies for accreditation
- 2 Application reviewed against AANEM standards
- 3 Patient reports sent for peer review
- 4 Deficiency notices found in peer review sent
- 5 Laboratory submit remediations
- 6 Certificate awarded for 5 Years
- 7 Annual compliance reports reviewed
- 8 Site review (if necessary)
- 9 Reapply at 5 years

Research has shown that neurologists and PMR physicians perform fewer EDX studies while making more accurate diagnoses than other physicians or nonphysicians.¹

ACCREDITED VERSUS EXEMPLARY STATUS

Accreditation with Exemplary status is the highest level of accreditation recognized by the AANEM. Exemplary status is granted to laboratories where the Lab Medical Director is certified by at least one of the following boards: American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine (ABEM); American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) in clinical neurophysiology or neuromuscular medicine; or American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR) in neuromuscular medicine.

WHAT IS EDX LABORATORY ACCREDITATION?

Electrodiagnostic (EDX) Laboratory Accreditation is a voluntary, peer-review process that identifies and acknowledges EDX laboratories for achieving and maintaining the highest level of quality, performance, and integrity based on professional standards developed by American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM). Accreditation provides laboratories specializing in EDX medicine with a structured mechanism to assess, evaluate, and improve the quality of care provided to their patients. EDX Laboratory Accreditation is granted to practices for a 5-year period and is open to all types and sizes of practices.

WHY PAYERS SHOULD USE ELECTRODIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

As health care costs continue to skyrocket, payers need a way to help identify quality care for patients in the most efficient manner possible. EDX laboratory accreditation is a tool that can be used to support payers of EDX services to ensure that the services provided are reliable and performed by providers in the most appropriate manner to achieve the best results. With Accreditation there will be:

- Fewer unnecessary treatments, including surgeries
- Less need to pay for expensive retesting
- More reliable diagnosis
- Better patient outcomes

AANEM EDX LABORATORY ACCREDITATION REVIEWS THE KEY COMPONENTS OF QUALITY

The quality of the service provided in an EDX laboratory depends on a number of factors. EDX laboratory accreditation saves payers the time and money of trying to determine which laboratories are providing high quality services by reviewing the following key components.

PERSONNEL

PHYSICIANS

Neurology or
Physical Medicine and
Rehabilitation

At least 100 studies each
year

At least 3 months of EDX
training

Physicians are onsite

TECHNOLOGISTS

Supervised onsite by EDX
physician

Not performing needle EMGs
Required NCS training

FACILITY

Safety standards
Appropriate equipment
Policies and safety
procedures

Quality improvement
Record retention
Procedure manuals

PEER REVIEWED PATIENT REPORTS

Assures accurate and correct
reporting through compliance
with AANEM's Reporting the
Results of Needle EMG and
Nerve Conduction Studies and
evidenced based guidelines.

By becoming accredited, the laboratory demonstrates it meets and will continue to meet these key components and other important standards.



American Association of
Neuromuscular & Electrodagnostic Medicine

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The American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodagnostic Medicine was founded in 1953. We are a nonprofit membership association dedicated to the advancement of neuromuscular, musculoskeletal, and electrodagnostic medicine. With 4,500 member physicians and allied health professionals, AANEM works to improve the quality of medical care provided to patients with muscle and nerve disorders.

¹Dillingham, TR, Pezzin, LE, Rice, JB. Electrodagnostic Services in the United States. *Muscle Nerve* 2004; 29:198-204.

Dillingham, TR, Pezzin, LE. Under-Recognition in Persons With Diabetes by Nonphysician Electrodagnostic Providers. *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*. 2005; 84: 399-406.