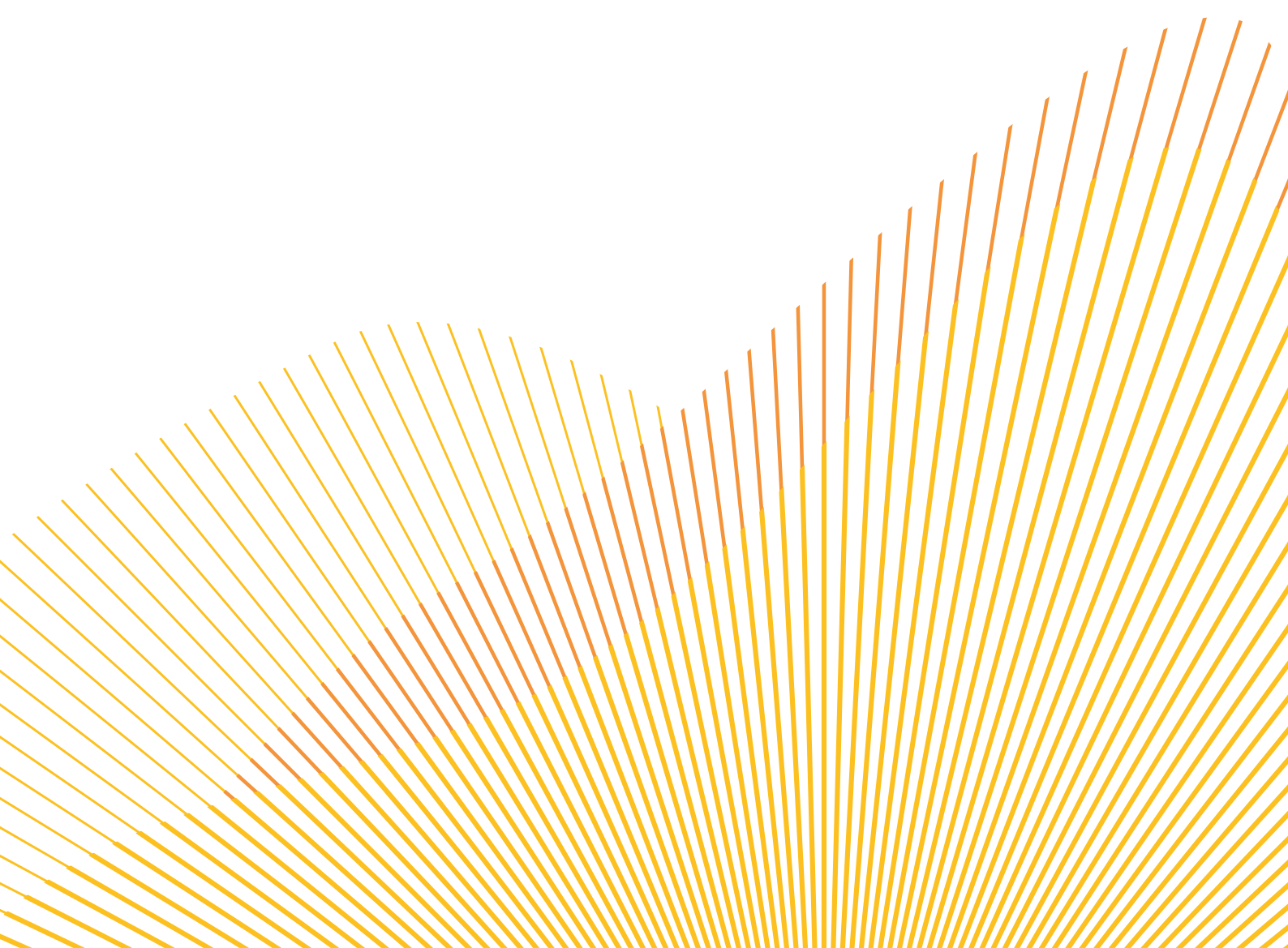


Novalis Certified

FAQ

Accreditation Program for SRS and SBRT



Why should we choose Novalis Certified if we are already ACR or IAEA accredited or have similar certification from another organization?

- Novalis Certified is the only program dedicated to SRS and SBRT and provides reassurance and documentation of high and rigorous standards in radiosurgery.
- Novalis Certified allows centers to ensure their specific workflows, personnel requirements, commissioning and quality assurance adhere to best practice in radiosurgery.
- Novalis Certified is complementary to other available accreditation programs. It is based on international standards and guidance documents from WHO, ASTRO and AAPM as well as accreditation programs like ACR or IAEA.
- Since the Novalis Certified program is a consultative audit, your team can take advantage of the experience of the auditors and the Novalis Circle Expert Group, increasing confidence and helping to more efficiently allocate resources.
- By undergoing this accreditation program your hospital has the opportunity to promote a culture of excellence and join a community of peers who have demonstrated clinical capabilities and high standards in SRS and SBRT.

How long will the certification process take?

- The Novalis Certified Program consists of both offsite and on-site review. Preparation time may vary based on current documentation levels of participating hospitals; however, the On-site Program Review is one full day involving the entire radiosurgery team.
- Prior to the audit, sites receive an information package to assist them with preparing the documentation necessary for the On-site Program Review, during which time the auditor is available to provide further reference materials and answer any questions regarding document preparation.

Who conducts the Novalis Certified Audit?

- Novalis Certified audits are conducted by members of the Novalis Circle Expert Group, an independent multidisciplinary panel of experts in radiosurgery workflows and safety initiatives with a passion for improving the global standard of SRS and SBRT. The Expert Group consists of two Neurosurgeons (Dr. Isabelle Germano, Dr. Ronald E. Warnick), three Radiation Oncologists (Dr. Naren Ramakrishna, Dr. Reinhard Wurm, Prof. Mark de Ridder) and three Professors of Medical Physics (Dr. Timothy Solberg, Dr. Nzhde Agazaryan, Dr. James Robar).
- The audit team may include individuals from the Expert Group or other auditors who are qualified to deliver the On-site Program Review at a level deemed commensurate with the Expert Panel. This team is responsible for review, approval and accreditation. The audit is a consultative process and the team shares their knowledge and experience with hospital staff during and after the On-site Program Review to help improve processes.

How often do we have to renew?

- Certification is valid for four years after which time recertification is necessary. For more information please contact Brainlab Sales.
- The Expert Group will send a letter to institutions one year prior to certification expiration as a reminder to pursue recertification.

What is the recertification process?

- Upon expiration of initial certification, sites may recertify through a remote process by completing a recertification self-study. Recertification is valid for four years at which point a secondary recertification may be completed with an onsite visit. Subsequent recertification will be done alternatively per conference call or with a site visit every four years.

Can we certify over a weekend when we are not treating?

- Participation of the entire team is necessary on the day of the On-site Program Review, including the radiation oncology and medical physics teams, dosimetrists, radiation therapists and neurosurgeons. Treatment observation is part of the On-site Program Review; therefore, the audit should take place on a “regular” radiosurgery day.

How is Novalis Certified related to ASTRO, AAPM, etc.?

- Novalis Certified is a focused, independent SRS and SBRT accreditation program that is based upon the publications of some of the most renowned international radiation oncology organizations (AAPM, ASTRO, ACR, AANS and the IAEA).
- The Novalis Certification Program takes into consideration safety initiatives established by the ACR, ASTRO and AAPM, such as the publication “Safety is No Accident” and “Quality and Safety Considerations in SRS and SBRT” and applies these initiatives towards quality systems and QA processes for SRS and SBRT.

Is Novalis Certified independent?

- Novalis Certified is independent of all vendors, including Brainlab. Brainlab initiated the program and now acts as the customer-facing representative to facilitate the business aspects of the program and the Novalis Circle Expert Group.

Does Novalis Certified affect the hospital’s liability in regard to SRS / SBRT treatments?

- Liability is always with the hospital and team involved in the delivery of radiation treatments. Novalis Certified requires sites to clearly document their processes, policies, procedures, work flows, personnel, training, QA, treatments, etc, which are compiled into an audit report. This documentation can be used by the hospital to prove compliance with policies, workflows and QA processes in the event of an investigation. It is the site’s decision whether they share this report with any inquiring organizations or authorities. All material provided by the hospital is held in complete confidence by the Novalis Circle Expert Group and the auditors.

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Why is Novalis Certified relevant for neurosurgeons?

- Radiosurgery has become an increasingly critical treatment option for many neurosurgeons, as it enables them to reach the deepest recesses of the brain and correct disorders not treatable with conventional surgery.
- Advanced, patient-tailored radiosurgery programs require a collaborative effort, combining the neurosurgeon's expertise in neuroanatomy and physiology with the expertise in dose selection and radiation safety possessed by the radiation oncologist and radiation physicist.
- Novalis Certified considers the needs of neurosurgeons. The Novalis Standard was defined by an independent multidisciplinary group of experts, including a neurosurgeon.

Is there dedicated marketing support available after successful certification?

- Novalis Certified Centers have access to a wide range of marketing assets to promote their certification. Brainlab, along with a digital marketing agency, created a digital campaign for Novalis Certified centers to increase brand awareness, website traffic and outreach among both professional and patient groups. Additionally, Brainlab is available to help support launch events to celebrate Novalis Certification achievement and demonstrate commitment to the community.

For more information Contact us

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www.novaliscircle.org