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## **QIBA Profile. FDG-PET/CT as an Imaging Biomarker Measuring Response to Cancer Therapy**

~~March~~ May 9, 2013

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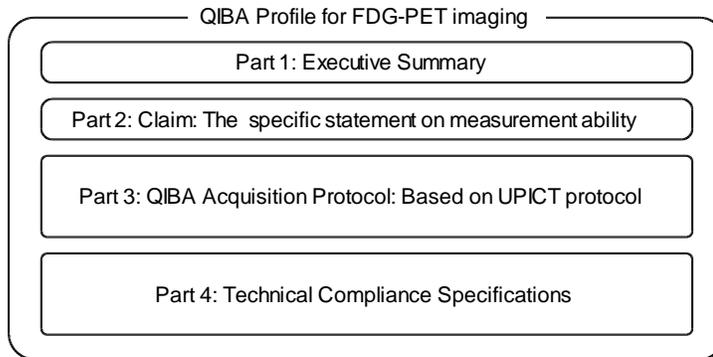
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## 40 1. Executive Summary

41 This QIBA Profile documents specifications and requirements to provide comparability and consistency for  
42 quantitative FDG-PET across scanners in oncology. It can be applied to both clinical trial use as well as  
43 individual patient management. This document organizes acquisition, reconstruction and post-processing,  
44 analysis and interpretation as steps in a pipeline that transforms data to information to knowledge.

45 The document, developed through the efforts of the QIBA FDG-PET Technical Subcommittee, has shared  
46 content with the FDG-PET UPICT protocol, as well as additional material focused on the devices used to  
47 acquire and analyze the FDG-PET data.



48

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Figure 1: Illustration of the Profile components

50 The Profile Part 3 is largely derived from the FDG-PET UPICT protocol for FDG PET imaging in clinical trials.  
51 In the UPICT protocol, there is a carefully developed hierarchy with tiered levels of protocol compliance.  
52 This reflects the recognition that there are valid reasons to perform trials using different levels of rigor,  
53 even for the same disease/intervention combination. For example, a high level of image measurement  
54 precision may be needed in small, early-phase trials whereas a less rigorous level of precision may be  
55 acceptable in large, late-phase trials of the same drug in the same disease setting.

56 The three levels of compliance for UPICT protocols are defined as:

57 ACCEPTABLE: failing to meet this specification will result in data that is likely unacceptable for the intended  
58 use of this protocol.

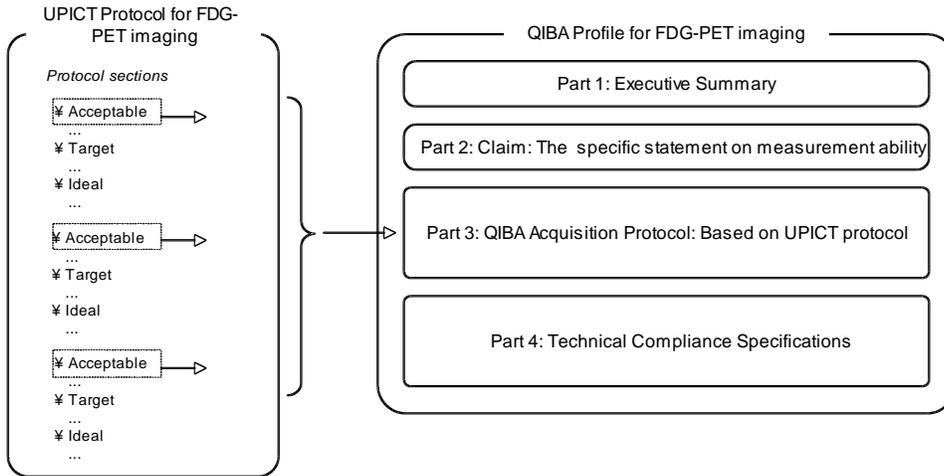
59 TARGET: meeting this specification is considered to be achievable with reasonable effort and equipment  
60 and is expected to provide better results than meeting the ACCEPTABLE specification.

61 IDEAL: meeting this specification may require unusual effort or equipment, but is expected to provide  
62 better results than meeting the TARGET.

63 ACCEPTABLE values are always provided for each parameter in a UPICT Protocol. When there is no reason  
64 to expect better results (e.g. in terms of higher image quality, greater consistency, lower radiation dose,  
65 etc.), TARGET and IDEAL values are not provided.

66 This Profile draws on the ACCEPTABLE components of the UPICT Protocol. Later revisions of this Profile are  
67 expected to draw on the Target and then Ideal categories of the UPICT Protocol. The Target and Ideal

68 categories are intended to account for advances in the field and the evolving state-of-the-art of FDG-  
 69 PET/CT imaging. These concepts are illustrated in Figure 2 below.  
 70



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Figure 2. Relationship between the UPICT Protocol and the Profile.

73

### Summary for Clinical Trial Use

74 The QIBA FDG-PET/CT Profile defines the technical and behavioral performance levels and quality control  
 75 specifications for whole-body FDG-PET/CT scans used in single- and multi-center clinical trials of oncologic  
 76 therapies. While the emphasis is on clinical trials, this process is also intended to apply for clinical practice.  
 77 The specific claims for accuracy are detailed below in the Claims.

78 The specifications that must be met to achieve compliance with this Profile correspond to acceptable levels  
 79 specified in the FDG-PET UPICT Protocol. The aim of the QIBA Profile specifications is to minimize intra- and  
 80 inter-subject, intra- and inter-platform, and inter-institutional variability of quantitative scan data due to  
 81 factors other than the intervention under investigation. FDG-PET/CT study(ies) performed according to the  
 82 technical specifications of this QIBA Profile in clinical trials can provide qualitative and/or quantitative data  
 83 for single time point assessments (e.g., diagnosis, staging, eligibility assessment, investigation of predictive  
 84 and/or prognostic biomarker(s)) and/or for multi-time point comparative assessments (e.g., response  
 85 assessment, investigation of predictive and/or prognostic biomarkers of treatment efficacy).

86 A motivation for the development of this Profile is that while a typical PET/CT scanner measurement  
 87 system (including all supporting devices) may be stable over days or weeks, this stability cannot be  
 88 expected over the time that it take to complete a clinical trial. In addition there are well known differences  
 89 between scanners and or the operation of the same type of scanner at different imaging sites.

90 The intended audiences of this document include:

- 91 • Technical staff of software and device manufacturers who create products for this purpose .

- 92 • Biopharmaceutical companies, oncologists, and clinical trial scientists designing trials with imaging  
93 endpoints.
- 94 • Clinical research professionals.
- 95 • Radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians, technologists, physicists and administrators at healthcare  
96 institutions considering specifications for procuring new PET/CT equipment.
- 97 • Radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians, technologists, and physicists designing PET/CT acquisition  
98 protocols.
- 99 • Radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and other physicians making quantitative measurements  
100 from PET/CT images.
- 101 • Regulators, nuclear medicine physicians, oncologists, and others making decisions based on  
102 quantitative image measurements.

103 Note that specifications stated as 'requirements' in this document are only requirements to achieve the  
104 claim, not 'requirements on standard of care.' Specifically, meeting the goals of this Profile is secondary to  
105 properly caring for the patient.

## 106 2. Clinical Context and Claims

107 FDG is a glucose analogue. The rationale for its use in oncology is based on the typically increased rate of  
108 glycolysis in tumors compared to normal tissue. FDG is transported into tumor cells via glucose transport  
109 proteins, usually up-regulated in tumor cells. Once internalized FDG is phosphorylated to FDG-6-phosphate;  
110 it does not progress any further along the glycolytic pathway and becomes substantially metabolically  
111 trapped. FDG uptake is not specific for tumor cells and there are some normal tissues and other processes  
112 with increased glucose turnover, e.g. infection and inflammation, that show elevated uptake or  
113 accumulation of FDG.

### 114 Applications and Endpoints for Clinical Trials

115 FDG-PET/CT imaging can be used for a wide range of clinical indications and research questions. These are  
116 addressed more completely in the FDG-PET/CT UPICT Protocol (UPICT section 1.1). This QIBA Profile  
117 specifically addresses the requirements for measurement of tumor FDG uptake with PET/CT as an imaging  
118 biomarker for evaluating therapeutic response.

119 Biomarkers useful in clinical research for patient stratification or evaluation of therapeutic response would  
120 be useful subsequently in clinical practice for the analogous purposes of initial choice of therapy and then  
121 individualization of therapeutic regimen based on the extent and degree of response as quantified by FDG-  
122 PET/CT.

123 The technical specifications described in the Profile are appropriate for quantification of tumor FDG uptake  
124 and measuring longitudinal changes within subjects. However, many of the Profile details are generally  
125 applicable to quantitative FDG-PET/CT imaging in other applications.

126 FDG-PET scans are sensitive and specific for detection of most malignant tumors [Fletcher 2008]. Coverage  
127 for oncology imaging procedures in the US by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are explicitly  
128 listed in the National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scans (220.6).  
129 FDG-PET scans reliably reflect glucose metabolic activity of cancers and this metabolic activity can be  
130 measured with high reproducibility over time. Longitudinal changes in tumor 18F-FDG accumulation during  
131 therapy often can predict clinical outcomes earlier than changes in standard anatomic measurements

[Weber 2009]. Therefore, tumor metabolic response or progression as determined by tumor FDG uptake can serve as a pharmacodynamic endpoint in well-controlled Phase I and Phase IIA studies as well as an efficacy endpoint in Phase II and III studies. In tumor/drug settings where the preceding phase II trials have shown a statistically significant relationship between FDG-PET response and an independent measure of outcome, changes in tumor FDG activity may serve as the primary efficacy endpoint for regulatory drug approval in registration trials.

### **Claim: Measure Change in SUV**

If Profile criteria are met, then tumor glycolytic activity as reflected by the maximum standardized uptake value (SUVmax) should be measurable from FDG-PET/CT with a within-subject coefficient of variation of 10-12%.

The following important considerations are noted:

1. This Claim applies only to tumors that are considered evaluable with PET. In practice this means tumors of a minimum size and baseline SUVmax (e.g. [Wahl 2009, de Langen 2012]). More details on what tumors are evaluable (minimum size and SUVmax) are described in section 3.6.5.3.

2. Details of the claim were derived from a review of the literature and are summarized in Appendix B. In these reports [Nakamoto 2002, Krak 2004, Velasquez 2009, Hatt 2010], it was assumed that the repeatability of SUVmax could be described by a fixed percentage of the baseline measurement. This assumption may not be applicable over the full range of clinically relevant SUVs and combinations of relative and absolute SUV changes have been proposed [de Langen 2012].

3. A within-subject coefficient of variation of 12% implies a limit of repeatability of  $\pm 33\%$ , that is, separate SUVmax measurements derived from test-retest PET/CT studies will differ by less than 33% for 95% of the observations. Note that asymmetric limits of repeatability have also been reported, e.g.  $-27\%$  to  $+37\%$  [Velasquez 2009].

4. This Claim is applicable for single-center studies using the same scanner. For multi-center studies, if FDG-PET/CT imaging is performed using the same scanner and protocol for each patient at each time point (as described in the Profile), then it is anticipated that this Claim will be met.

5. This Claim is based on SUVmax due to the evidence provided in the scientific literature. However, the use of SUV metrics derived from larger regions-of-interest (e.g. SUVpeak) are to be encouraged, as they may provide improved repeatability. In addition the use of automated and/or centralized analysis methods will further improve SUV repeatability. Note that while relative limits appear to be appropriate for SUVmax measures, it may be that absolute limits may be more appropriate for SUVs based on mean values for volumetric ROIs [Nahmias and Wahl 2008].

While the claim has been informed by an extensive review of the literature, it is currently a consensus claim that has not yet been substantiated by studies that strictly conform to the specifications given here. In addition we note that this claim should be re-assessed for technology changes, such as PSF (point spread function) based reconstruction or TOF (time of flight) imaging that were not utilized in published test-retest studies. A standard utilized by a sufficient number of studies does not exist to date. The expectation is that from future studies and/or field testing, data will be collected and changes made to this Claim or the Profile specifications accordingly.

### 3. Profile Details

The following figure provides a graphical depiction that describes the marker at a technical level.

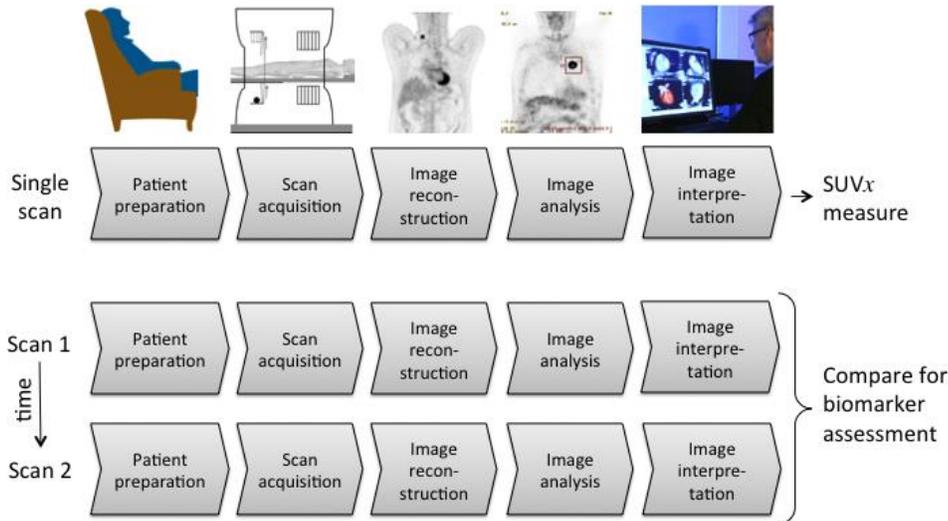


Figure 3: The assay method for computing and interpreting glycolytic metabolic activity using PET/CT may be viewed as a pipeline using either one or two or more scan sequences. The measure SUV<sub>x</sub> refers to one of several possible SUV measures, such as SUV<sub>max</sub>, SUV<sub>mean</sub> or SUV<sub>peak</sub>, with normalization by body weight or lean body mass.

Patients may be selected or referred for FDG-PET/CT imaging through a variety of mechanisms. In addition, patients are often required to undergo screening according to pre-scan requirements such as fasting levels and/or serum glucose levels as described below.

The imaging steps corresponding to Figure 1 are:

- 1) Patients or subjects are prepared for scanning (e.g. 6 hr fasting). FDG is administered. Patient waits quietly for bio-distribution and uptake of FDG (typically 60 min)
- 2) Scan data from the PET and CT exams is acquired.
- 3) Data correction terms are estimated and PET (and CT) images are reconstructed.
- 4) Quantitative measurements are performed.
- 5) Images are reviewed for qualitative interpretation.

Note that steps 4 and 5 may occur in either order or at the same time. More details on the requirements are given below.

Images may be obtained at multiple time points over days or weeks, notably at a minimum of two time points before and after therapeutic intervention for a response assessment as is considered by this document. The change in FDG uptake is typically assessed as a percentage according to the formula:

$$\frac{[(\text{post-treatment metabolic activity} - \text{pre-treatment metabolic activity}) / \text{pre-treatment metabolic activity}] \times 100}{\text{Response criteria}}$$
 Response criteria are then applied to categorize the response assessment. These response criteria

196 are beyond the scope of this document, but are discussed in the PERCIST proposal [Wahl 2009].

197 The following sections describe the major components illustrated in Figure 3:

Section	Title	Performed by
3.1	Subject Handling	Personnel, (including Technologists and Schedulers) at an Image Acquisition Facility
3.2	Image Data Acquisition	Technologist, at an Image Acquisition Facility using an Acquisition Device
3.3	Image Data Reconstruction	Technologist, at an Image Acquisition Facility using Reconstruction Software
3.4	Image Analysis	Imaging Physician or Image Analyst using one or more Analysis Software tools
3.5	Image Interpretation	Imaging Physician before or after information obtained by Image Analysis using a pre-defined Response Assessment Criteria

198 Image data acquisition, reconstruction and post-processing are considered to address the collection and  
 199 structuring of new data from the subject. Image analysis is primarily considered to be a computational step  
 200 that transforms the data into information, extracting important values. Interpretation is primarily  
 201 considered to be judgment that transforms the information into knowledge.

## 202 **3.1. Subject Handling**

203 This Profile will refer primarily to 'subjects', keeping in mind that the recommendations apply to patients in  
 204 general, and that subjects are often patients too.

### 205 ***3.1.1 Subject Selection, Timing, and Blood Glucose Levels***

206 The study protocol should include specific directions as to the management of subjects with abnormal  
 207 fasting blood glucose measurements whether known to be diabetic or not. While it is known that high  
 208 levels of circulating blood glucose reduce FDG uptake, there is a paucity of scientific data to suggest a  
 209 specific cutoff for abnormally high blood glucose measurements or if these subjects should be excluded  
 210 from clinical trials that use FDG-PET/CT scan data. It is important to define how such subjects and the data  
 211 from their imaging studies will be managed to ensure comparability of imaging data within and among  
 212 clinical trials. Specifically, consideration should be given to the exclusion of subjects with abnormal fasting  
 213 blood glucose when quantitative FDG-PET/CT is being used as the study's primary endpoint. Refer to the  
 214 FDG-PET/CT UPICT Protocol for Diabetic Scheduling and Management discussion (UPICT Section 4.2.2). It is  
 215 also recommended that the study specifies what level of within subject variability in serum glucose levels is  
 216 acceptable across time points and how subjects that fall outside that range will be interpreted.

#### 217 **3.1.1.1 Timing of Imaging Test Relative to Intervention Activity (UPICT Section 1.2)**

218 The study protocol should specifically define an acceptable time interval that should separate the  
 219 performance of the FDG-PET/CT scan from both (1) the index intervention and (2) other interventions (e.g.  
 220 chemotherapy, radiotherapy or prior treatment). This initial scan (or time point) is referred to as the  
 221 "baseline" scan (or time point). The time interval between the baseline scan and the initiation of treatment  
 222 should be specified as well as the time intervals between subsequent FDG-PET studies and cycles of  
 223 treatment. Additionally, the study protocol should specifically define an acceptable timing variance for

224 performance of FDG-PET/CT around each time point at which imaging is specified (i.e., the acceptable  
225 window of time during which the imaging may be obtained “on schedule”). The timing interval and window  
226 are dependent upon 1) the utility for the FDG-PET/CT imaging within the clinical trial, 2) the clinical  
227 question that is being investigated and 3) the specific intervention under investigation. Suggested  
228 parameters for timing of FDG-PET/CT within oncologic trials are more completely addressed in the FDG-  
229 PET/CT UPICT Protocol section 1.2.

### 230 **3.1.1.2. Timing Relative to Confounding Activities (UPICT Section 3.2)**

231 Activities, tests and interventions that might increase the chance for false positive and/or false negative  
232 FDG-PET/CT studies should be avoided prior to scanning. The allowable interval between the potentially  
233 confounding event and the FDG-PET/CT exam will be dependent on the nature of the confounding variable.  
234 For example, inflammation may cause focally increased FDG-PET activity (e.g. from a percutaneous or  
235 excisional biopsy of a suspicious mass) or might lead to the appearance of a non-malignant mass (e.g.,  
236 hematoma) on the CT portion of the study. A percutaneous ablation procedure of a known malignant focus  
237 may cause focally increased FDG-PET activity and/or an immediate post-ablation increase in the apparent  
238 volume of the ablated target lesion. The time of onset and the duration of the increased FDG-PET activity  
239 and/or the change in lesion volume might be different for these two confounding factors.

240 If iodinated contrast is to be used for the CT portion of the PET/CT study, conflict with other tests and  
241 treatments should be avoided congruent with community standards of care (e.g., thyroid scan).

### 242 **3.1.1.3. Timing Relative to Ancillary Testing (UPICT Section 3.3)**

243 Avoid scheduling tests that might confound the qualitative or quantitative results of the FDG-PET/CT study  
244 within the time period prior to the scan. For example, a glucose tolerance test should not be scheduled  
245 during the 24 hours prior to the performance of FDG-PET/CT. Similarly, other tests that might involve  
246 increasing plasma glucose, insulin, or corticosteroid levels should also be avoided. Exercise cardiac stress  
247 testing should be avoided during the twenty-four (24) hours prior to the performance of FDG-PET/CT.  
248 Similarly, other tests that might involve vigorous exercise and thereby increase muscle metabolic function  
249 should also be avoided.

## 250 **3.1.2 Subject Preparation (UPICT Section 4)**

251 Management of the subject can be considered in terms of three distinct time intervals (1) prior to the  
252 imaging session (prior to arrival and upon arrival), (2) during the imaging session and (3) post imaging  
253 session completion. The pre-imaging session issues are contained in this section while the intra-imaging  
254 issues are contained in section 3.2.1 on image data acquisition.

### 255 **3.1.2.1. Prior to Arrival (UPICT Section 4.1)**

256 The main purpose of subject preparation is to reduce tracer uptake in normal tissue (kidneys, bladder,  
257 skeletal muscle, myocardium, brown fat) while maintaining and optimizing tracer uptake in the target  
258 structures (tumor tissue). For more detail, refer to the FDG PET UPICT Protocol (Section 4.1) that addresses  
259 (1) Dietary, (2) Fluid Intake, and (3) Other activities that may affect tissue FDG uptake.

#### 260 (1) Dietary

- 261 a. Diabetic management – Refer to FDG-PET/CT UPICT Protocol sections 1.7.2 and 4.2.2
- 262 b. Fasting status - Subjects should not eat any food (either oral or parenteral) for at least six  
263 hours prior to the anticipated time of FDG administration.

264 (2) Fluid Intake: Adequate hydration (before and after FDG administration) is important both to ensure  
 265 a sufficiently low FDG concentration in urine (fewer artifacts) and to reduce radiation exposure to  
 266 the bladder. Adequate hydration is especially important when contrast CT imaging will be used.  
 267 Whichever hydration strategy is used (how much and when to administer), the protocol should be  
 268 uniform among sites during a trial. Specific hydration recommendations are presented in the FDG-  
 269 PET/CT UPICT Protocol (reference Section 4.2.1). The fluid administered should not contain glucose  
 270 or caffeine.

271 (3) Other Activities: To minimize FDG uptake in muscle, the subject should avoid strenuous or extreme  
 272 exercise before the PET exam for a minimum of at least 6 hours (preferably for a time period of 24  
 273 hours).

274 The compliance issues around these parameters are dependent upon adequate communication and  
 275 oversight of the Scheduler or Technologist at the Image Acquisition Facility with the subject.  
 276 Communication with the subject and confirmation of compliance should be documented.

### 277 3.1.2.2. Upon Arrival (UPICT Section 4.2)

278 Upon arrival 1) confirmation of subject compliance with pre-procedure instructions and 2) the occurrence  
 279 of potentially confounding events (see listing in Section 4.2.1 of FDG-PET/CT UPICT Protocol) should be  
 280 documented on the appropriate case report forms.

281 There should be documentation of subject-specific risk factors including, but not limited to, previous  
 282 contrast reactions (if iodinated contrast is to be used).

### 283 3.1.2.3 Preparation for Exam (UPICT Section 4.2.3)

284 In order to avoid heterogeneous physiological distribution of the FDG, it is critical that subject preparation  
 285 after arrival and prior to imaging is standardized among all sites and subjects throughout the conduct of the  
 286 clinical trial.

- 287 • The waiting and preparation rooms should be relaxing and warm (> 75° F or 22° C) during the entire  
 288 uptake period (and for as long as reasonably practicable prior to injection, at least 15 minutes is  
 289 suggested as acceptable). Blankets should be provided if necessary.
- 290 • The subject should remain recumbent or may be comfortably seated; activity and conversation  
 291 should be kept to an absolute minimum. For example, the subject should be asked to refrain from  
 292 speaking, chewing, or reading during the uptake period. For brain imaging the subject should be in a  
 293 room that is dimly lit and quiet for FDG administration and subsequent uptake period.
- 294 • After FDG injection, the subject may use the toilet, but if possible preferably not for the initial 30  
 295 minutes immediately after injection of FDG for several reasons, primarily to avoid muscular uptake  
 296 during the biodistribution phase of FDG-uptake. The subject should void immediately (within 5 – 10  
 297 minutes) prior to the FDG-PET/CT image acquisition phase of the examination.
- 298 • Bladder catheterization is not routinely necessary; but if deemed necessary (e.g., for the evaluation  
 299 of a subject with a pelvic tumor such as cervical or prostate cancer), the catheter should be placed  
 300 prior to injection of FDG. If bladder catheterization is performed, additional strategies to avoid  
 301 trapping high activity pockets of activity within the bladder should be considered such as retrograde  
 302 filling of the bladder to dilute the residual activity. ~~Bladder catheterization may be important for~~  
 303 ~~the evaluation of pelvic tumors (e.g., cervix or prostate cancer).~~

**Comment [ep1]:** Item #3..Reworded to incorporate comment.

- 304 • Following the administration of FDG, the subject should drink 500 ml of water (or receive by  
305 intravenous administration 250 - 500 ml of non-glucose containing fluid). Fluid intake may need to  
306 be modified for those subjects on fluid restriction.
- 307 • For specific areas of anatomic interest (e.g., tumors located in the lower abdomen, pelvis or kidney)  
308 intravenous diuretic agents may be used (e.g., 20 – 40 mg of furosemide given 15 minutes after the  
309 administration of FDG). If bladder catheterization is performed, IV diuretics should be administered  
310 as described here so as to ensure that the concentration of activity in the renal collecting systems  
311 and bladder is relatively dilute.
- 312 • Sedation is not routinely required, but is not contraindicated provided that the sedative used does  
313 not interfere with the uptake of FDG. Sedation may have utility in specific clinical circumstances  
314 such as in subjects with brain or head and neck tumors, claustrophobic subjects, or children. The  
315 sedative effect should last for the duration of image acquisition; detailed specifications are  
316 dependent upon the medication used and the route of administration.
- 317 • The amount of fluid intake and use of all medications (e.g., diuretic, sedative) must be documented  
318 on the appropriate case report form.
- 319 • Subjects undergoing a CT scan should empty their pockets and remove any clothing containing  
320 metal and any metallic jewelry from the body parts to be scanned, changing into a hospital gown if  
321 necessary.

**Comment [ep2]:** Item #4: Revised to address comment; no additional relevant specifics in UPICT Protocol.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Height and Weight	Imaging Technologist	The Technologist shall measure and document subject height and weight and enter this information into the scanner during the PET/CT acquisition.
		Subject <u>height and</u> body weight shall be measured <u>at the time of each PET/CT scan</u> with standardized measurement devices and with the subject in an examination gown or light clothing. <u>Subject height shall be measured at the time of baseline FDG-PET scan with standardized measurement device; height can be measured at each subsequent time point, but this is not required.</u>
		If subject cannot be moved from the bed, the date and source of information should be documented.
		The Technologist shall measure subject height and weight and enter this information into a common data format mechanism used for recording all needed information (Appendix E).

**Comment [ep3]:** Item #5: Revised wording so subject weight is required to be measured at ALL time points; height is required at Baseline, optional for other time points on-study.

- 322 • Diabetic Monitoring and Management (UPICT Section 4.2.2)
- 323 The subject’s blood glucose level should be measured [using CLIA-approved, CLIA cleared, or equivalent  
324 (outside US) glucose measurement device or laboratory] within the preceding 2 hours (ideally within 1  
325 hour, especially in subjects with diabetes) of FDG administration and documented.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Blood glucose level measurement	Imaging Technologist or Lab Technologist	Within 2 hours preceding FDG administration, shall measure and document time of subject blood glucose collection. Glucose measurement should be performed using a CLIA approved, CLIA cleared, or equivalent (outside US) glucose measurement device.  Deviations from this process shall be documented.
Blood glucose level documentation	Imaging Technologist or Lab Technologist	Shall enter the results of the blood glucose assay and the time of blood draw on a case report form or similar subject information sheet.  Shall enter the results of the blood glucose assay into a common format mechanism used for recording all needed information (Appendix E).
Blood glucose level Threshold	Imaging Technologist	Shall enforce the glucose thresholds for imaging as defined in the Protocol; if not, then reason for non-compliance shall be provided and documented on case report form or similar subject information sheet.  Shall document any information on non-compliance with the protocol into a common format mechanism used for recording all needed information (Appendix E).

### 3.1.3. *Imaging-related Substance Preparation and Administration (UPICT Section 5)*

#### 3.1.3.1. Radiotracer Preparation and Administration

##### 3.1.3.1.1 Radiotracer Description and Purpose

The FDG radiopharmaceutical must meet USP United States Pharmacopeia or comparable International equivalent specifications or meet other current specifications as defined by the FDA, EMEA or other appropriate regulatory agency approval.

##### 3.1.3.1.2 Radiotracer Activity Calculation and/or Schedule (UPICT Section 5.2)

The <sup>18</sup>F-FDG activity administered ranges between about 185 – 740MBq (5 – 20 mCi). The administered activity typically depends upon the local imaging protocol. The local protocol may require fixed activity, or the activity may vary as a function of various parameters including but not limited to subject size or age, scanning mode, or percentage of scan bed (slice) overlap. To date there are no data providing evidence of superiority of parameter-dependent administered activity protocols. The exact activity and the time at which activity is calibrated should be recorded. Residual activity remaining in the tubing, syringe or automated administration system or any activity spilled during injection should be recorded. The objective is to record the net amount of FDG radiotracer injected into the subject to provide accurate factors for the calculation of the net SUV.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
-----------	--------------	---------------

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Administered FDG Radiotracer Activity	Imaging Technologist	<p>The Technologist shall</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assay the pre-injection FDG activity (i.e. radioactivity) and time of measurement,</li> <li>2. Record the time that FDG was injected into the subject,</li> <li>3. Assay the residual activity in the syringe (and readily available tubing and components) after injection and record the time of measurement.</li> </ol> <p>These values shall be entered into the scanner during the PET/CT acquisition.</p> <p>For scanners that do not provide for entry of residual activity information, the net injected radioactivity should be manually calculated by decay correcting all measurements to the time of injection and then subtracting the residual radioactivity from the pre-injection radioactivity. The net injected radioactivity is then entered into the scanner during the PET/CT acquisition.</p> <p>All data described herein on activity administration shall be documented.</p>
		All data should be entered into the common data format mechanism (Appendix E).

342 3.1.3.1.3 Radiotracer Administration Route (UPICT Section 5.4)

343 FDG should be administered intravenously through a large bore (21 gauge) indwelling catheter placed  
 344 anatomically remote (e.g., contralateral extremity to site of disease if at all possible) to any site(s) of  
 345 suspected pathology, preferably in an antecubital vein. Intravenous ports should not be used, unless no  
 346 other venous access is available. If a port is used, an additional flush volume should be used. As  
 347 reproducible and correct administration of FDG is required for quantification purposes, extravasation or  
 348 paravenous administration should be avoided. If an infiltration is suspected, the event and expected  
 349 quantity should be recorded and the infiltration site should be imaged. The approximate amount of  
 350 infiltration should be estimated from the images where possible. If the infiltration is greater than 5% of the  
 351 administered activity and the quantitative result from the FDG-PET/CT study is a primary or secondary  
 352 endpoint, the data point might be censored from review or the subject might not be included in the study.  
 353 The anatomical location of the injection site should be documented on the appropriate case report form or  
 354 in the Common Data Format Mechanism (Appendix E).

355 Presuming that the IV access is properly functioning, the same route of administration may be used for  
 356 iodinated contrast as is used for FDG.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
FDG Administration	Technologist	<p>Technologist shall administer FDG intravenously through a large bore (21 gauge) indwelling catheter placed anatomically remote to any sites of suspected pathology, preferably in an antecubital vein.</p> <p>Intravenous ports should not be used, unless no other venous access</p>

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
		is available. In the case of manual administration, a three-way valve system should be attached to the intravenous cannula so as to allow at least a 10 cc normal (0.9% NaCl) saline flush following FDG injection.
Suspected infiltration	Technologist	Technologist shall 1. Record the event and expected amount of FDG: [Minor (estimated less than 5%), Moderate (estimated more than 5% and less than 20%), Severe (estimated more than 20%)]. Estimation will be done based on images and/or known injected volumes. 2. Image the infiltration site.
		Record the event and expected amount of FDG into the common data format mechanism (Appendix E).

### 3.1.3.2 CT Contrast Material Preparation and Administration

The use of CT contrast material during FDG-PET/CT imaging is complex and analyzed in detail in the UPICT FDG-PET Protocol (Section 3.2). In summary, the presence of IV and/or oral contrast material improves the detection of lesions with CT and may improve the anatomic localization, interpretation, and analysis of the FDG-PET/CT exam. However, the presence of contrast material may affect the attenuation correction of the PET scan with consequent bias in measured SUVs.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
CT Contrast Agent	Technologist	Technologist shall record the type and amount of CT Contrast Agent. 1. Was oral contrast used: Type [Positive, Negative], amount (volume in cc). 2. Was IV contrast used?, amount (volume in cc), time of injection. Record the event and expected amount of CT Contrast Agent into the common data format mechanism (Appendix E).

## 3.2. Image Data Acquisition

This section summarizes the imaging protocols and procedures that shall be performed for an FDG-PET/CT exam. Detailed descriptions are included in the referenced FDG-PET/CT UPICT protocol sections.

The motivation for controlling the image acquisition as tightly as described here is that over the course of a trial, hardware and software updates will occur. The intent of the Profile is to ensure that the instrument gives the same results over the duration of the trial.

For consistency, clinical trial subjects should be imaged on the same device over the entire course of a study. If the imaging requirements are qualitative i.e. for relative quantitation, for example the presence or absence of a lesion or a lesion SUV relative to a reference region, then a replacement scanner may be used if it is properly qualified. It is imperative, however, that the trial sponsor be notified of scanner substitution if it occurs.

374 For clinical trials with quantitative imaging requirements, a subject should have all scans performed on only  
 375 one scanner unless quantitative equivalence with a replacement scanner can be clearly demonstrated.  
 376 However, it should be noted that there are currently no accepted criteria for demonstrating quantitative  
 377 equivalence between scanners. It is anticipated that future version of this Profile will provide such criteria."

378 ~~It is recommended that all FDG-PET/CT scans for an individual subject be performed on the same PET/CT~~  
 379 ~~scanner hardware and software throughout the trial. In the event of equipment malfunction, follow up~~  
 380 ~~scans on an individual participant can be performed on a different scanner of the same model and software~~  
 381 ~~version provided it has met the scanner qualification requirements.~~ The follow up scans should be  
 382 performed with identical acquisition parameters as the first (baseline), inclusive of all the parameters  
 383 required for both the CT and PET acquisitions.

384 The FDG-PET/CT UPICT Protocol (Section 7.1.1) describes scanning strategies that can be used in a clinical  
 385 trial. For strategy 1, there is no intent to obtain a diagnostic CT scan at the FDG-PET imaging session,  
 386 however a low-dose CT scan is needed for attenuation correction. For strategy 2, a diagnostic CT scan is  
 387 obtained. There are further considerations that must be followed for each of the two strategies. The  
 388 workflow chosen for a given protocol should be described in the protocol and should be tailored  
 389 commensurate to the level of expectation of the obtained data (e.g. qualitative or quantitative SUV  
 390 analysis).

391 Strategy 1: For FDG-PET/CT in which the CT is used for attenuation correction and localization only (not  
 392 intended as a clinically diagnostic CT, intent):

- 393 • CT Scout (i.e. topogram or scanogram etc.), followed by
- 394 • CT for anatomic localization and attenuation correction, followed by
- 395 • PET Emission scan acquisition

396 Strategy 2: For FDG-PET/CT in which a clinically diagnostic CECT is also required, ONE of the following  
 397 options should be used. Strategy 2a is preferred since it avoids any, all be it possibly minimal, impact of  
 398 IV contrast enhancement on attenuation correction and therefore SUV determination.

399 Strategy 2a

- 400 • Follow Strategy 1 (above)
- 401 • Acquire an additional IV contrast-enhanced diagnostic CT scan

402 Strategy 2b

- 403 • Perform an IV contrast-enhanced diagnostic CT scan
- 404 • Follow Strategy 1 (above)

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Scanning Strategy (Workflow)	Technologist	Technologist shall follow Profile compliant workflow strategy, which will be compatible with Acquisition Device capability. The same workflow used at baseline shall be used at all subsequent time points.

407 For both strategies, there are several common issues specific to the CT exam that may have an impact on

quantitative FDG-PET output, which need attention and protocol specification. These include (1) contrast material administration, (2) respiratory motion compensation instructions and (3) CT scanning technique (kVp, mAs and pitch). Below is a summary of the acceptable level of behavior/procedure for each of these three issues.

At a minimum, all these issues should be addressed in the clinical trial protocol, ideally with consistency across all sites and all subjects (both inter-subject, and intra- and inter-facility) with the target of consistency across all time points for each given subject. The actual details of imaging for each subject at each time point should always be recorded. Any particular clinical trial should NOT allow some sites to implement one strategy and other sites to implement the alternative.

*CT Exam Variables and Specifications:*

Contrast Agents - The presence of a positive contrast agent (IV or oral), by affecting the CT attenuation map, may affect SUV quantitation [Mawlawi 2006]. If this were the only consideration, then ideal would be to prohibit CT contrast administration. However, in some clinical situations (dependent upon tumor type, tumor behavior or level of anatomic interest), the benefit of CT contrast agents may outweigh the small errors induced in SUV measurement that may include increased SUV variability. Each protocol should specify the desired approach for the given study. Most importantly, for each subject, the same approach should be followed for all imaging time points.

In cases where CT contrast agents are used, there are two main strategies:

Strategy 1: No IV; dilute positive oral contrast allowed

Strategy 2: Use negative or dilute positive oral contrast for the non-attenuation CT scan. Ensure that the diagnostic CT acquisition (which may be performed with IV contrast) is performed consistently for a given subject across all time points.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
CT Contrast agent	Technologist	CT contrast agents shall be given commensurate with the workflow strategy as selected from above.

### 3.2.1 Imaging Procedure

The PET/CT exam consists of two components, the PET emission scan and the CT transmission scan (which may have multiple components). From these data sets, the non-attenuation-corrected PET images may be reconstructed for quality control purposes and attenuation-corrected PET images are reconstructed for qualitative interpretation and quantitative analysis. Instrument specifications relevant to the Acquisition Device are included in Section 4 Compliance – Acquisition Device.

#### 3.2.1.1 Timing of Image Data Acquisition

FDG uptake into both tumors and other body tissues is a dynamic process that may increase at different rates and peak at various time points dependent upon multiple variables. Therefore, it is extremely important that (1) in general, the time interval between FDG administration and the start of emission scan acquisition is consistent and (2) when repeating a scan on the same subject, it is essential to use the same interval between injection and acquisition in scans performed across different time points.

While the “target” tracer uptake time is 60 minutes, the “acceptable” window is from 55 to 75 minutes to ensure that imaging does not begin prematurely so as to allow adequate tumor uptake of FDG and to

444 account for the practicality of work flow that can result in delays in imaging later than 60 minutes after FDG  
 445 injection. The exact time of injection must be recorded; the time of injection initiation should be used as  
 446 the time to be recorded as the radiotracer injection time. The injection and flush should be completed  
 447 within one minute with the rate of injection appropriate to the quality of the vein accessed for FDG  
 448 administration so as to avoid compromising the integrity of the injection vein.

449 When performing a follow-up scan on the same subject, especially in the context of therapy response  
 450 assessment, it is essential to apply the same time interval with target window of  $\pm 10$  minutes ~~(with an~~  
 451 ~~acceptable window of  $\pm 15$  minutes)~~ provided that the scan must not begin prior to 55 minutes after the  
 452 injection of FDG. If a limited anatomy scan is obtained at follow-up after a whole body scan was performed  
 453 at baseline, one should consider adjusting the timing of the follow up scan to be congruent with the timing  
 454 for the same anatomic region as achieved during the baseline study.

455 If, for scientific reasons, an alternate time (between activity administration and scan acquisition) is  
 456 specified in a specific protocol, then the rationale for this deviation should be stated; inter-time point  
 457 consistency must still be followed.

**Comment [ep4]:** Item #10: Discordance resolved by deleting the parenthetical text in order to correspond to normative text below in Tracer Uptake Time item.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Tracer Injection Time	Technologist	The time of FDG injection shall be entered into PET/CT scanner console during the acquisition.
Tracer Uptake Time:	Technologist	The Technologist shall ensure that the tracer uptake time for the baseline scan is 60 minutes, with an acceptable range of 55 to 75 minutes.  When repeating a scan on the same subject, especially in the context of therapy response assessment, the Technologist shall apply the same time interval $\pm 10$ minutes provided that the scan must not begin prior to 55 minutes after the injection of FDG.

458 The following sections describe the imaging procedure.

459 **3.2.1.2 Subject Positioning (UPICT Section 7.2.1)**

460 Consistent positioning avoids unnecessary variance in attenuation, changes in gravity-induced shape and  
 461 fluid distribution, or changes in anatomical shape due to posture, contortion, etc. During PET-CT, subjects  
 462 should be positioned in the center of the field of view (FOV), preferably with the subjects' arms positioned  
 463 over head for whole-body imaging (to minimize beam hardening and FOV truncation artifacts). In the case  
 464 of dedicated brain or head/neck scans, the arms should be positioned down along the body. If the subject is  
 465 physically unable to maintain arms above head for the entire whole-body examination then the arms can  
 466 be positioned along the side before the start of the scan, unless the protocol specifically excludes such  
 467 subjects. Arm positioning in a particular subject should be consistent between the PET emission and CT  
 468 transmission scans at each time point and should be as consistent as possible across all time points.

469 Respiratory motion causes SUV errors by two mechanisms: motion blurring and errors in attenuation  
 470 correction due to mismatches between CT-based attenuation map and emission data [Liu 2009]. Various  
 471 strategies could be used to minimize, document and compensate for respiratory motion. Shallow breathing  
 472 shall be performed during CT AC acquisition (see UPICT Protocol section 7.1.1). The subject should (a) be  
 473 monitored and if breathing pattern is not consistent with shallow breathing expectation, coached in the  
 474 breathing protocol and (b) should remain motionless throughout the scan.

The Technologist shall document factors that adversely influence subject positioning or limit the ability to comply with instructions (e.g. breath-hold, shallow breathing, remaining motionless, etc.).

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Subject Positioning	Technologist	The Technologist shall position the subject according to the UPICT specifications and/or specific protocol specifications consistently for all scans.

Positioning Non-compliance	Technologist	The Technologist shall document issues regarding subject non-compliance with positioning.
		The Technologist shall document issues regarding subject non-compliance with breathing and positioning using the common data format mechanism (Appendix E).

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Respiratory motion minimization	Technologist	The Technologist shall observe subject breathing. If the subject is not breathing commensurate with shallow breathing expectation, the Technologist shall provide verbal instruction to the subject to perform shallow breathing prior to and during CT and PET scans.
Respiratory motion minimization	PET/CT Scanner	The PET/CT scanner shall provide methods to minimize the PET image errors introduced by respiratory motion.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Breathing and motion non-compliance	Technologist	The Technologist shall document issues regarding subject non-compliance with breathing and motion.
		The Technologist shall document issues regarding subject non-compliance with breathing and motion using the common data format mechanism (Appendix E).

### 3.2.1.3 Scanning Coverage and Direction (UPICT Section 7.1.1)

For most Oncology indications, anatomic coverage should include from the skull base (external auditory meatus) to the mid-thigh. If other ranges are used, which may be appropriate for specific clinical trials, then the clinical trial protocol should provide specific instructions with justification. Scanning direction should be caudocranial to minimize effects from increasing bladder activity during the scan. Scanning direction should be specified in the clinical trial protocol. It is critical that for a given subject, scanning direction on

488 baseline scans be duplicated at follow-up time points.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Scanning Direction	Technologist	The Technologist shall scan the subject caudocranial for whole body examination unless otherwise specified by the protocol. Scanning direction shall be the same for each subject at all time points.  The scanning direction shall be entered into the PET/CT console during the acquisition and will be recorded by the scanner into the appropriate DICOM field.
Anatomic Coverage	Technologist	The Technologist shall perform the scan such that the anatomic coverage is acquired according to the protocol specifications and the same for all time points.

489

490 **3.2.1.4 Scanner Acquisition Mode Parameters**

491 We define acquisition mode parameters as those that are specified by the Technologist at the start of the  
 492 actual PET/CT scan. These include the acquisition time per bed position, the bed overlap, the acquisition  
 493 mode (2D or 3D), with or without cardiac and/or respiratory gating and CT technique. These parameters do  
 494 not include aspects of the acquisition that occur earlier (e.g. injected amount of 18F-FDG or uptake  
 495 duration, CT contrast agent injection) or later (e.g. reconstruction parameters) in the overall scan process.

496 *PET Acquisition*

497 There are no data that support a rationale for variable PET acquisition mode parameters, specifically the  
 498 acquisition time per bed position depending on subject weight and or injected amount of 18F-FDG.

499

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
PET acquisition mode	Study Sponsor	The key PET acquisition mode parameters (e.g., time per bed position, <b>bed overlap</b> , acquisition mode, with or without gating) <u>shall be specified</u> in a manner that is expected to produce comparable results regardless of the scanner make and model.
		The key acquisition mode parameters shall be specified according to pre-determined harmonization parameters.
PET acquisition mode	Technologist	The key PET acquisition mode parameters (e.g., time per bed position, <b>bed overlap</b> , acquisition mode, with or without gating) <u>shall be set as specified</u> by study protocol and used consistently for all patient scans.

Comment [ep5]: Re: comment 71

500

501 *CT Acquisition*

502 For the CT acquisition component of the PET/CT scan, this Profile only addresses the aspects related to the  
 503 quantitative accuracy of the PET image. In other words aspects of CT diagnostic accuracy are not addressed  
 504 in this Profile. In principle any CT technique (parameters include kVp, mAs, pitch, and collimation) will  
 505 suffice for accurate corrections for attenuation and scatter. However, it has been shown that for estimating

506 PET tracer uptake in bone, lower kVp CT acquisitions can be more biased. Thus higher kVp CT acquisitions  
 507 are recommended in general. In addition if there is the potential for artifacts in the CT image due to the  
 508 choice of acquisition parameters (e.g. truncation of the CT field of view), then these parameters should be  
 509 selected appropriately to minimize propagation of artifacts into the PET image through CT-based  
 510 attenuation and scatter correction.

511 The actual kVp and exposure (CTDI, DLP) for each subject at each time point should be recorded. CT dose  
 512 exposure should be appropriately chosen wherever possible and particularly in smaller patients and  
 513 children. Note that this does not address radiation exposure considerations for staff, which should follow  
 514 the principles of ALARA. Note also that ALARA principle is for radiation mitigation and does not address the  
 515 diagnostic utility of an imaging test.

516

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
CT acquisition mode	Study Sponsor	The key CT acquisition mode parameters (kVp, mAs, pitch, and collimation) shall be specified in a manner that is expected to produce comparable results regardless of the scanner make and model and with the lowest radiation doses consistent for the role of the CT scan: diagnostic CT scan, anatomical localization, or corrections for attenuation and scatter.
		If diagnostic or anatomical localization CT images are not needed, then the CT acquisition mode shall utilize the protocol that delivers the lowest possible amount of radiation dose to the subject (e.g. an ultra-low low dose protocol) that retains the quantitative accuracy of corrections for attenuation and scatter.
CT acquisition mode	Technologist	The key CT acquisition mode parameters (kVp, mAs, pitch, and collimation) shall be set as specified by study protocol and used consistently for all subject scans.

517

518

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
CT Technique: Protocol Design	Technologist / Physician / Medical Physicist	A team comprising a Technologist / Physician / Medical Physicist shall ensure that CT techniques protocols are designed such that dose exposure is the lowest radiation dose necessary to achieve the diagnostic objective in children and adults.  Protocols defined by Image Gently and Image Wisely should be used where feasible.  The protocol shall be recorded and documented.
CT Technique: Dose Exposure	Technologist	The Technologist shall ensure that CT dose exposure is the lowest radiation dose necessary to achieve the diagnostic objective in children and adults.

519

520 Regarding CT radiation exposure, the lowest radiation dose necessary to achieve the diagnostic objective  
 521 should be used. For a given protocol, the purpose of performing the CT scan (with the intent of attenuation  
 522 correction only or attenuation correction and anatomic localization versus one intended for diagnostic CT  
 523 purposes with contrast and breathhold) should be determined. The CT technique (tube current, rotation  
 524 speed, pitch, collimation, kVp, and slice thickness) used should result in as low as reasonably achievable  
 525 exposure needed to achieve the necessary PET image quality. The technique used for an imaging session  
 526 should be repeated for that subject for all subsequent time points assuming it was properly performed on  
 527 the first study.

528 **3.3. Imaging Data Reconstruction and Post-Processing**

529 **3.3.1 Imaging Data Reconstruction (UPICT Section 7.3)**

530 Reconstructed image data is the PET image exactly as produced by the reconstruction process on the  
 531 PET/CT scanner, i.e. a PET image volume with no processing other than that occurring during image  
 532 reconstruction. This is always a stack of DICOM slices/files constituting a PET image volume that can be  
 533 analyzed on one or more of the following: PET scanner console, PET image display workstation, PACS  
 534 system, etc. See Section 4 Compliance – Image Reconstruction Software for specifications.

535 The PET reconstruction parameters include the choice of reconstruction algorithm, number of iterations  
 536 and subsets (for iterative algorithms), the type and amount of smoothing, the field of view and voxel size.  
 537 The quantitative accuracy of the PET image should be independent of the choice of CT reconstruction  
 538 parameters, although this has not been uniformly validated. In addition if there is the potential for artifacts  
 539 in the CT image due to the choice of processing parameters (e.g. compensation for truncation of the CT  
 540 field of view), then these parameters should be selected appropriately to minimize propagation of artifacts  
 541 into the PET image through CT-based attenuation and scatter correction.

542

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
PET image reconstruction	Study Sponsor	The key PET reconstruction parameters (algorithm, iterations, smoothing, field of view, voxel size) shall be specified in a manner that is expected to produce comparable results regardless of the scanner make and model.
		The key PET image reconstruction parameters shall be specified according to pre-determined harmonization parameters.
PET image reconstruction	Technologist	The key PET reconstruction parameters (algorithm, iterations, smoothing, field of view, voxel size) shall be followed and set as specified in order to produce comparable results regardless of the scanner make and model.
PET Matrix/Voxel size	Technologist	The Technologist shall perform the image reconstruction such that the matrix, slice thickness, and reconstruction zoom shall yield a target voxel size of 3 – 4 mm in all three dimensions, although not necessarily isotropic.  The final size shall not achieved by re-binning, etc., of the

**Comment [ep6]:** Item # 11 suggests change to < 5 mm as target with 3 -4 mm as ideal

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
PET image reconstruction	Study Sponsor	The key PET reconstruction parameters (algorithm, iterations, smoothing, field of view, voxel size) shall be specified in a manner that is expected to produce comparable results regardless of the scanner make and model.
		The key PET image reconstruction parameters shall be specified according to pre-determined harmonization parameters.
PET image reconstruction	Technologist	The key PET reconstruction parameters (algorithm, iterations, smoothing, field of view, voxel size) shall be followed and set as specified in order to produce comparable results regardless of the scanner make and model.
		reconstructed images.
Correction factors	Technologist	All quantitative corrections shall be applied during the image reconstruction process. These include attenuation, scatter, randoms, dead-time, and efficiency normalizations.
Calibration factors	Scanner	All necessary calibration factors needed to output PET images in units of Bq/ml shall be automatically applied during the image reconstruction process.

543

544 As part of the image reconstruction and analysis, correction factors for known deviations from the  
545 acquisition protocol can potentially be applied. These corrections can include, for example, compensation  
546 for mistakes in data entry [Kinahan 2010], variations in FDG uptake period [Beaulieu 2003], and errors in  
547 scanner calibration factors [Lockhart 2011]. Corrections for known data entry errors and errors in scanner  
548 calibration factors should be corrected prior to the generation of the reconstructed images, or immediately  
549 afterwards. Corrections that are more ad-hoc in nature, e.g. corrections for variations in FDG uptake period  
550 or plasma glucose levels or partial volume correction, should only be applied as part of the image analysis  
551 step. That is, not used to modify the reconstructed PET image.

### 552 **3.3.2 Image Data Post-processing (UPICT Section 8)**

553 Processed image data are images that have been transformed in some manner, including but not limited to:  
554 smoothing, sharpening, image zoom, rotation/translation, resampling, interpolation, slice averaging, MIP,  
555 etc. This is typically a stack of DICOM slices/files constituting a PET image volume.

556 Standard whole-body FDG-PET oncology studies typically include all necessary data corrections and  
557 processing within the reconstruction process and do not require additional processing other than (e.g.) data  
558 de-identification. More advanced studies such as those including dynamic imaging may require additional  
559 processing as specified in the individual protocol.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Post-Processing	PET/CT Scanner and Display Workstation	All processing parameters in a protocol shall be used consistently for all subjects and studies in the trial. The parameters shall be recorded in the appropriate DICOM fields according to the DICOM conformance statement for the

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
		<p>PET/CT scanner. This information shall also be recorded into relevant case report forms (CRFs) as stipulated by individual trials.</p> <p>Quantitative analysis (e.g. calculating SUVmean or SUVmax within ROIs) shall only be performed on <b>unprocessed images</b>, i.e. not images that have been interpolated, scaled, rotated or otherwise transformed.</p>
Data Archiving	Technologist	<p>The originally reconstructed PET images set shall always be archived at the local site.</p> <p>If processed PET images are required, they should be archived as separate secondary datasets.</p>

**Comment [ep7]:** Item #12: it says quantitative analysis should only be performed on unprocessed images – what about studies where the PET and CT need registered i.e. patient movement?  
  
Clarify if these images should be excluded from analysis

560 Briefly described here are concepts presented in UPICT Section 8.2.3 regarding difference between  
 561 ‘visualized data’ and ‘data used for quantification’. At the acceptable level, for visual  
 562 inspection/interpretation of PET/CT data using the display workstation, bi-linear or tri-linear interpolation  
 563 and zooming may be used to display the images in a different matrix size than the original data. In addition,  
 564 so-called maximum intensity projections (MIP) may be generated as they may facilitate localization and  
 565 detection of lesions. Additional processing, such as zooming, re-binning, reorientation and filtering may be  
 566 applied upon user request only. User should be able to manipulate color scale settings (window/level and  
 567 color table). It should always be possible to revert to the default orientation, zoom and bin size (preferably  
 568 a ‘revert to default’ button is available).

569 **3.3.3 Imaging Data Storage and Transfer**

Discussions of archiving PET data often mention 'raw data'. This is an ambiguous term as it can refer to scanner raw data (i.e., sinograms or list-mode) or image raw data. To avoid confusion, the term raw data should not be used without making it clear which form is under discussion.  
Image raw data is the image data exactly as produced by the reconstruction process on the PET or PET/CT scanner. i.e., a stack of DICOM slices/files constituting a PET image volume with no processing other than that occurring during image reconstruction. This is always a stack of DICOM slices/files constituting a PET image volume that can be analyzed on one or more of the following: PET scanner console, PET image display workstation, PACS system, etc. Post-processed image data are images that have been transformed after reconstruction in some manner, including but not limited to: smoothing, sharpening, image zoom, rotation/translation, resampling, interpolation, slice averaging, MIP, etc.. This is typically a stack of DICOM slices/files constituting a PET image volume that can still be analyzed on one or more of the following: PET scanner console, PET image display workstation, PACS system, etc. For archiving, the most important data are the original images, i.e. the image raw data. In the unlikely event that the scanner raw data is required for later reprocessing, this should be made clear in the protocol.

**Comment [ep8]:** Item #13: no mention of storage of RAW data – this has proved invaluable in cases where recons have not been done correctly. Not difficult to store on modern systems  
  
provide recommendations or say the clinical protocol should indicate if raw data should be stored locally  
  
Draft text provided by Dr. Kinahan in box. If accepted, ask RSNA staff to reformat without box without affecting line numbering or at end of Public review.

570

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Data archiving	Technologist	The originally reconstructed PET images, with and without attenuation correction, and CT images shall always be

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
		archived at the local site. If processed PET images are required, they shall be archived as separate secondary datasets.

571

### 572 3.4. Image Analysis (UPICT Section 9)

573 The Image Analyst, through interaction with the Workstation Analysis tools, shall be able to perform  
574 specified measurements. Image Analysis has qualitative and quantitative tasks. Both require consistency  
575 and images of sufficient quality. Quantitative imaging requires additional system characteristics described  
576 further in this Profile.

#### 577 3.4.1 Input Data

578 The output images of Reconstruction, but not Post processing, are considered the input for Image Analysis.  
579 If the Image Analyst alters input data (e.g. zoom), the original input data will be maintained as a separate  
580 file, both to be stored. (See Section 3.2)

#### 581 3.4.2 Methods to Be Used

582 Each tissue/organ to be investigated quantitatively (either tumor lesion or normal tissue) is characterized  
583 by defining a region-of-interest (ROI) and calculating a parameter such as the maximum SUV within the ROI.  
584 The image analyst will use tools (as defined in Section 4.4 Compliance – Image Analysis Workstation) to  
585 define ROIs and measure SUVs.

#### 586 3.4.3 Required Characteristics of Resulting Data (UPICT Section 9.3)

587 The specific trial protocol shall prospectively define the SUV parameter that is required for each lesion, or  
588 normal tissue, which will be used for the imaging endpoint. Some studies may also compare different  
589 metrics and will require recording multiple parameters. SUV measures (and the analysis tools used to  
590 obtain them, including software version) shall be specified for each protocol and shall be used consistently  
591 across all subjects and across all sequential lesion measurements.

SUV's are intended as a measure of relative uptake and in that sense, can be regarded as dimensionless (unitless); however, using strict interpretation of the units for the common calculation of body weight normalization, this yields units of g/ml. Under the assumption that on average 1 ml of tissue weighs 1 gm (e.g. water), a dimensionless SUV would be obtained. Display system manufactures typically, but not always, indicate units of g/ml if images are scaled to SUVs with a body weight normalization. This is presumably to differentiate between body weight (or lean-body-mass) and body-surface-area normalizations, which would show different units (and values). Based on the lack of consensus and that many display systems already use units, the recommendation below is to use units of g/ml.

592 It should be clear which values belong to which lesion. This can be done by capturing DICOM coordinates  
593 along with the SUV or secondary screen captures of the ROI for identification. It should be reported which  
594 SUV measure is used, i.e. statistic and type of normalization.

595 If a reference tissue (e.g. liver) SUV is measured, then, that SUV should be reported along with lesion SUV  
596 data.

**Comment [ep9]:** RSNA staff: Please include this as informative text (not in box) at time of document clean up. Not done yet to avoid significant line numbering offset.

597 The analysis software should generate a report.

### 598 **3.5. Image Interpretation and Reporting (UPICT Section 10)**

599 No QIBA Profile specification can be provided for image interpretation at this time. Image Interpretation is  
600 considered to be beyond the scope of this document. Refer to FDG-PET/CT UPICT Protocol (Section 10). In  
601 addition, further interpretation of the quantitative results (e.g. PERCIST [Wahl 2009]) and/or normalizing  
602 SUV to reference tissue values (e.g. liver or blood pool) can also be specified as part of a specific trial  
603 protocol.

604 Typically the trial protocol will state how quantitative response is measured. For example, response can be  
605 based on the hottest lesion, but sometimes the change of the sum of SUVs is used. In other words, how  
606 quantitative response is measure should be specified *a priori* by the trial itself. This also applies to target  
607 lesion selection.

608

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Image Reporting	Imaging Facility	Imaging reports shall be populated from DICOM header information using structured reporting.

609

### 610 **3.6. Quality Control**

611 The following section deals with multiple aspects of quality control in FDG-PET/CT studies. (See FDG-PET/CT  
612 UPICT Protocol Section 12 for additional information). This includes selecting and qualifying a PET/CT  
613 imaging facility, imaging personnel and PET/CT scanners and ancillary equipment. In addition, the use of  
614 phantom imaging (prior to study initiation and ongoing) is discussed as well as identifying subjects whose  
615 data may need to be censored due to lack of data integrity. Finally, post-image-acquisition quality  
616 assessment is detailed.

#### 617 **3.6.1 Imaging Facility**

618 It is essential to implement quality processes that ensure reliable performance of the scanner and  
619 consistent image acquisition methodology. These processes must be in place prior to subject imaging and  
620 be followed for the duration of the trial. A facility “imaging capability assessment” is a prerequisite to  
621 facility selection for participation in any clinical trial involving the use of FDG-PET/CT as an imaging  
622 biomarker. This imaging capability assessment will include:

- 623 • Identification of appropriate imaging equipment intended for use in the trial
- 624 • Documented performance of required quality control procedures of the scanner and ancillary  
625 equipment (e.g. radionuclide calibrator, glucose meter, etc.)
- 626 • Radiotracer quality control procedures
- 627 • Experience of key personnel (technologists, radiologists, physicists and/or other imaging experts)
- 628 • Procedures to ensure imaging protocol compliance during the trial

### 629 3.6.1.1 Site Accreditation/Qualification Maintenance

630 Whilst imaging facility accreditation is generally considered to be adequate for routine clinical practice  
631 purposes (e.g., ACR, IAC, and TJC), facility qualification (e.g., SNM-CTN, ACRIN, and imaging core labs) is  
632 required for clinical research/clinical trial participation. In order to be considered to be compliant with this  
633 Profile, an imaging facility must provide documentation of current qualified status. Appropriate forms,  
634 checklists or other process documents should be maintained and presented upon request to verify that  
635 ongoing quality control procedures are being performed in a timely manner as dictated by specific clinical  
636 study requirements. If exceptions to any of the performance standards stated below occur and cannot be  
637 remediated on site, the site should promptly communicate the issue to the appropriate internal overseer  
638 for advice as to how the irregularity should be managed. In addition to documenting the level of  
639 performance required for this Profile (and the level of performance achieved), the frequency of facility  
640 accreditation/qualification also needs to be described.

641 It is important to note that that imaging facility Accreditation and/or Qualification, as defined in this Profile,  
642 are considered necessary, but are not sufficient for compliance with this Profile. For compliance with the  
643 Profile, and thus to support the claims of the Profile, all normative requirements must be met.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Accreditation / Qualification	Imaging Site	Shall maintain and document Accredited status for clinical practice (ACR, IAC, TJC, etc.) or Qualified status for clinical trials (e.g. ACRIN, SNM-CTN, CALGB, CROs, etc.).

### 644 3.6.2 Imaging Facility Personnel

645 For each of the personnel categories described below, there should be training, credentialing, continuing  
646 education and peer review standards defined. Guidelines for training/credentialing for each resource  
647 category are summarized below (UPICT Protocol Section 2.1).

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Personnel Roster	Imaging Facility Coordinator	Each site shall, at the time of trial activation and prior to subject accrual, have the support of certified technologists, physicists, and physicians (as defined below), experienced in the use of FDG-PET/CT in the conduct of oncological clinical trials.
Technologist	Imaging Facility Coordinator	Technologist certification shall be equivalent to the recommendations published by the representatives from the Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists Section (SNMTS) and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) and

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
		should also meet all local, regional, and national regulatory requirements for the administration of ionizing radiation to patients.
Medical Physicist	Imaging Facility Coordinator	Medical physicists shall be certified in Medical Nuclear Physics or Radiological Physics by the American Board of Radiology (ABR); in Nuclear Medicine Physics by the American Board of Science in Nuclear Medicine (ABSNM); in Nuclear Medicine Physics by the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine; or equivalent certification in other countries; or have performed at least two annual facility surveys over the last 24 months.
Physician	Imaging Facility Coordinator	Physicians overseeing and interpreting PET/CT scans shall be qualified by the ABR (Diagnostic and/or Nuclear Radiology) or American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) or equivalent within the United States or an equivalent entity appropriate for the geographic location in which the imaging study(ies) will be performed and/or interpreted.

648

649 **3.6.3 FDG-PET/CT Acquisition Scanner**

650 FDG-PET/CT studies as described in this Profile require a dedicated PET/CT scanner. PET/CT scanners should  
651 be identified based on manufacturer, name and model. Hardware specifications should be documented.  
652 Scanner software name and version should be documented at the time of trial initiation and at the time of  
653 any and all updates or upgrades.

654 The PET/CT scanner must undergo routine quality assurance and quality control processes (including  
655 preventive maintenance schedules) appropriate for clinical PET/CT applications, as defined by professional  
656 and/or regulatory agencies. In order to assure adequate quantitative accuracy and precision of PET/CT  
657 imaging results, additional quality assurance measures are required, as discussed below.

658 ~~If there is more than one PET/CT scanner at a facility which will be used for clinical trial purposes, including  
659 potential use as a replacement in case of primary scanner failure, then all such scanners should be  
660 qualified.~~

661 For consistency, clinical trial subjects should be imaged on the same device over the entire course of a  
662 study. If the imaging requirements are qualitative i.e. for relative quantitation, for example the presence or  
663 absence of a lesion or a lesion SUV relative to a reference region, then a replacement scanner may be used  
664 if it is properly qualified. It is imperative, however, that the trial sponsor be notified of scanner substitution  
665 if it occurs.

666 For clinical trials with quantitative imaging requirements, a subject should have all scans performed on only  
667 one scanner unless quantitative equivalence with a replacement scanner can be clearly demonstrated.  
668 However, it should be noted that there are currently no accepted criteria for demonstrating quantitative  
669 equivalence between scanners. It is anticipated that future version of this Profile will provide such criteria."  
670 ~~For consistency, however, clinical trial subjects should be imaged on the same device over the entire course  
671 of a study.~~

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672 ~~It is imperative, therefore, that the trial sponsor be notified of scanner substitution if it occurs. In addition,~~  
 673 ~~as noted elsewhere, a subject should have all scans performed on only one scanner unless quantitative~~  
 674 ~~equivalence can be clearly demonstrated. However, it should be noted that there are no accepted criteria~~  
 675 ~~for demonstrating quantitative equivalence between scanners.~~

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Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Physical Inspection	Technologist	Shall, on a daily basis, check gantry covers in tunnel and subject handling system.
QA/QC Checks	Technologist	At a minimum, QA/QC procedures shall be performed each day according to vendor recommendations. A table of QA/QC procedures for a subset of specific PET/CT scanners from each vendor is included in Appendix G.2.  Daily QC procedures shall be performed prior to any subject scan.

### 676 3.6.3.1 Ancillary Equipment

#### 677 3.6.3.1.1 Radionuclide Calibrator

678 The following guidelines are collected from ANSI standard N42.13, 2004 and IAEA Technical Report Series  
 679 TRS-454. All requirements assume measurements on unit doses of FDG and that calibration sources are in  
 680 the 'syringe' geometry (i.e., no bulk doses).

681 The Constancy test ensures reproducibility of an activity measurement over a long period of time by  
 682 measuring a long-lived source of known activity.

683 The Accuracy test ensures that the activity values determined by the radionuclide calibrator are correct and  
 684 traceable to national or international standards within reported uncertainties.

685 The Linearity test confirms that, for an individual radionuclide, the same calibration setting can be applied  
 686 to obtain the correct activity readout over the range of use for that radionuclide calibrator.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Constancy	Technologist	Shall be evaluated daily (or after any radionuclide calibrator event) using a NIST-traceable (or equivalent) simulated F-18, Cs-137, or Co-57 radionuclide calibrator standard and confirmed that net measured activity differs by no greater than $\pm 2.5$ % from the expected value.
Accuracy	Technologist	Shall be evaluated monthly (or after any radionuclide calibrator event) with a NIST-traceable (or equivalent) simulated F-18 radionuclide calibrator standard. Shall confirm that net measured activities differ no greater than $\pm 2.5\%$ from expected value.  The scanner calibration shall be tested using a NIST-traceable (or equivalent) simulated F-18 source object, e.g. a uniform cylinder, large enough to avoid partial volume effects or other resolution losses.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Linearity	Technologist or Radiation safety officer or Qualified Medical Physicist	Shall be evaluated annually (or after any radionuclide calibrator event) using either F-18 or Tc-99m and should be within $\pm 2.5\%$ of the true value over an operating range of 37-1110 MBq (1 to 30 mCi) and the true value is determined by a linear fit (to the log data) over the same operating range.

687

688 3.6.3.1.2 Scales and stadiometers

689 Scales and stadiometers should be inspected and calibrated at installation and annually.

690

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Scales and stadiometers	Approved personnel	Shall be evaluated annually or after any repair by qualified personnel. Shall be confirmed that error is less than $\pm 2.5\%$ from expected values using NIST-traceable or equivalent standards.

691 3.6.3.1.3 Blood glucose level measurement device

692 Glucose measurements should be made using a CLIA-approved, CLIA-cleared, or equivalent (outside the US)  
693 glucose measurement technique.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Blood glucose level measurement device	Approved personnel	Shall have QA/QC testing and calibration performed using a CLIA-approved, CLIA-cleared, or equivalent (outside US) procedure.

694

695 3.6.3.1.4 Clocks and timing devices

696 PET/CT scanner computer and all clocks in an imaging facility used to record activity/injection  
697 measurements should be synchronized to standard time reference within  $\pm 1$  minute. These include any  
698 clocks or timekeeping systems that are connected with a subject's FDG-PET/CT study, in particular those  
699 associated with the radionuclide calibrator, the injection room, the scanner, and the acquisition  
700 computer(s). The synchronization of all clocks should be monitored periodically as part of ongoing QA  
701 program. In particular, clocks should be inspected immediately after power outages or civil changes for  
702 Daylight Savings (NA) or Summer Time (Eur).

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Scanner and site clocks	Approved personnel	Synchronization of all clocks used in the conduct of the FDG-PET/CT study shall be checked weekly and after power outages or civil changes for Daylight Savings (NA) or Summer Time (Eur) PET/CT scanner computer and all clocks in an Imaging facility

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
		used to record activity/injection measurements shall be synchronized to standard time reference within +/-1 minute.
Scanner and site clocks	Specific Device	Provide time synchronization as per the the IHE Consistent Time Integration Profile.

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 Comment [ep10]: Strawman language added in consideration of item #72.

703

704 **3.6.4 Phantom Imaging**

705 To qualify the PET/CT scanner for clinical practice or for a clinical trial, a phantom imaging procedure is  
 706 required. In addition to certain generally available, commonly used phantoms, purpose-specific phantoms  
 707 may be provided to simulate certain types of cancers or anatomic locations and therefore might vary from  
 708 trial to trial based on the need to evaluate particular diagnostic, staging and/or treatment response  
 709 performance and/or anatomic location. Options that might be considered on a per-protocol basis include,  
 710 but are not limited to:

- 711 1. each site uses a single phantom for the duration of the trial but not necessarily the same model of  
 712 phantom used at other sites
- 713 2. all sites use phantoms of the same model for the duration of the trial
- 714 3. all sites use phantoms built to precise specifications for the duration of the trial
- 715 4. all sites share a single phantom for the duration of the trial.

716 The phantom scans and performance evaluation should be performed prior to the start of a trial and  
 717 repeated during the course of the trial as specified by the individual protocol. Any changes to scanner  
 718 equipment, either hardware or software, should be immediately reported to the trial sponsor and/or  
 719 imaging CRO and may result in the need for re-qualification prior to imaging additional trial subjects. In  
 720 particular, it is strongly recommended that subjects in a longitudinal study be scanned on the same PET/CT  
 721 system with the same software version whenever possible.

722 Image noise levels are measured using an anthropomorphic phantom (e.g. NEMA, ACR, SNM, EANM) with a  
 723 uniform area to assess image ‘noise’ by means of the coefficient of variation (COV), also known as the  
 724 relative standard deviation (%RSD), which is expressed as a percentage and is defined as  $COV = (SD / Mean)$   
 725  $\times 100$ , for the voxel values within a specified volume of interest (VOI). The phantom should be filled such  
 726 that the activity concentration in the uniform area is approximately 3.7 – 7.4 kBq/ml (0.1 to 0.2 uCi/ml),  
 727 similar to the expected average normal tissue concentration at the time of imaging in an average weight  
 728 (70-80 kg) subject in combination with the intended FDG dosage. The phantom should be scanned using the  
 729 minimal time per bed specified in the trial protocol or using the routinely applied time per bed in the local  
 730 clinical setting. Moreover, image reconstruction methods and settings should equal those specified in the  
 731 trial protocol or equal those routinely applied in the local clinical setting. A region of interest (ROI) should  
 732 be positioned entirely within the phantom’s uniform area and as much as possible centrally located within  
 733 the phantom. The ROI should be a cubical or rectangular volume, with the length of each side as close as  
 734 possible to, but no less than, 3 cm. A sphere measuring no less than 3 cm. in diameter may also be used as  
 735 the ROI on systems that have the capability to accommodate this strategy. The COV of the voxel values thus  
 736 determined should be recorded and should be below 15%. If the COV of the voxel values thus determined is  
 737 above 15%, the acquisition time should be increased accordingly.

738 The normative list below is based on the NEMA Image Quality, ACR, and uniform cylinder phantoms as  
 739 appropriate.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Phantom tests: Frequency	Imaging Site	Shall perform and document results of all tests no less than quarterly.
Phantom tests: cross calibration with radionuclide calibrator	Imaging Site	Shall perform quarterly and after scanner upgrades, maintenance or repairs, new setups and modifications to the radionuclide calibrator.
Phantom tests: SUV measurements	Imaging Site	Using ACR or uniform cylinder phantom or equivalent shall obtain an SUV for a large central ROI of 1.0 with an acceptable range of 0.9 to 1.1.
		Using ACR or uniform cylinder phantom or equivalent shall obtain an SUV for a large central ROI of 1.0 with an acceptable range of 0.95 to 1.05.
Phantom tests: axial uniformity measurements	Imaging Site	Using uniform cylinder phantom or equivalent shall obtain a slice-to-slice variability of less than 10%.
		Using uniform cylinder phantom or equivalent shall obtain a slice-to-slice variability of less than 5%.
Phantom tests: resolution measurements	Imaging Site	The lower portion of the ACR phantom <u>or equivalent phantom (e.g. deluxe Jaszczak phantom)</u> . <u>Specific to the ACR phantom, it contains</u> six sets of acrylic rods arranged in a pie-shaped pattern with the following diameters: 4.8, 6.4, 7.9, 9.5, 11.1, and 12.7 mm. The 9.5, 11.1, and 12.7 mm diameter rods must be visible. <del>In addition the 12 mm diameter cylinder must be visible.</del> Also see Section 3.6.4.2.
		Harmonized image reconstruction protocols are available. (i.e., known recovery coefficients versus size for a given test object such as the modified NEMA NU-2 Image Quality phantom.
Phantom tests: noise measurements	Imaging Site	The phantom shall be filled with an FDG concentration of activity concentration in the uniform area is (approximately 0.1 to 0.2 $\mu\text{C}/\text{ml}$ ) and scanned using the intended acquisition protocol. Using a rectangular or spherical region as close as possible to, but no smaller than, 3cm to a side, the COV of the voxel values within the region should be below 15%.

**Comment [ep11]:** Item #18 suggests modifying language to include those facilities without ACR phantom. For cold rods there is Jaszczak phantom that accomplishes this, but does not account for hot rods.

740

741 **3.6.4.1 Uniformity and Calibration**

742 Verification of scanner normalization with a uniform phantom is a minimum requirement for all scanners  
 743 used in clinical trials including those that only have qualitative endpoints. For trials with quantitative PET

744 measurements, this assessment should also include a comparison against a radionuclide calibrator to  
 745 ensure quantitative accuracy; that is, a comparison of the absolute activity measured versus the measured  
 746 amount injected should be performed. This comparison is particularly important after software or  
 747 hardware upgrades. If the trial requires absolute quantification in baseline images or absolute changes in  
 748 longitudinal studies, it should be considered to include an image quality and/or contrast recovery QC  
 749 assessment as part of the routine QC procedures and/or scanner validation process, see Appendix E of the  
 750 UPICT Protocol. Clinical trials using only relative changes in longitudinal studies may not require contrast  
 751 recovery assessments provided there is appropriate consideration for the minimum size of target lesions  
 752 based on the partial volume effect.

753 An essential requirement for extracting quantitative data from images is that there be known calibration  
 754 accuracy and precision and/or cross calibration of the PET/CT system against the (locally) used radionuclide  
 755 calibrator (within 10%). The QC procedures should utilize the same acquisition/reconstruction protocol,  
 756 software and settings that are used for the subject scans.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Uniformity QC	Technologist	At least quarterly and following software upgrades, shall assess transverse and axial uniformity across image planes by imaging a uniform cylinder phantom. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The standard deviation of a large central 2D ROI shall be compared with similar previous scans to check for measurable differences.</li> <li>2. The mean values of a large central 2D ROI for all image slices shall be compared with similar previous scans to check for measurable differences.</li> </ol>
Cross Calibration	Technologist	At least quarterly and following software upgrades or changes to the radionuclide calibrator, shall perform checks to monitor and identify discrepancies between the PET scanner and radionuclide calibrator.

#### 757 3.6.4.2 Resolution (UPICT Section 12.1.1.11)

758 The assessment of adequate resolution should include both a qualitative evaluation (using clinical images)  
 759 and quantitative assessment (using phantom-defined criteria). The phantom-defined requirements are  
 760 more completely described in UPICT protocol Section 12.1.1.11.  
 761

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Resolution	Nuclear Medicine Physician	Shall perform, on at least an annual basis, and document a qualitative resolution QC test by using the manufacturer's settings and demonstrating resolution of normal gross anatomic features within clinical images of the brain, heart and abdomen.
Resolution	Medical Physicist	Shall perform (on at least an annual basis) and document performance of a quantitative assessment (using a phantom

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
		with differing size defined targets such as the ACR or NEMA IQ phantoms) for lesion resolution.

762 **3.6.4.3 Noise (UPICT Section 12.1.1.12)**

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Noise	Medical Physicist	Shall perform qualitative assessment of image noise in phantom images to be of consistent and acceptable quality.

764 **3.6.4.4 Phantom imaging data analysis**

765 For PET image analysis, there are many combinations of hardware and software that are used. The software  
 766 alone comprises multiple layers including the operating system, several base modules for input and display,  
 767 and the components that draw/calculate ROIs and calculate SUVs. It has been demonstrated that even  
 768 changes in the underlying operating system can produce changes in the quantitative output produced by  
 769 the display and analysis system [Gronenschild 2012]. Surprisingly little effort (outside manufacturer's  
 770 internal processes) has been applied to testing or validating the quantitative accuracy of SUV  
 771 measurements produced by display and analysis methods.

772 To provide a method for testing and validating quantitative accuracy of SUV measurements produced by  
 773 display and analysis methods, the QIBA FDG-PET/CT Technical Committee has developed an FDG-PET/CT  
 774 digital reference object (DRO), which is a synthetic test object comprised of stacked DICOM images  
 775 representing an FDG-PET image volume and an aligned CT image volume. The PET and CT images are based  
 776 on the NEMA/MITA NU-2 Image Quality phantom. The DRO has pre-determined test objects to evaluate  
 777 ROI functionality and pre-determined DICOM header information to test SUV calculations. Since the DRO is  
 778 created synthetically, any image display software is expected to reproduce the known values exactly,  
 779 except for the insignificant machine precision errors. Further details are given in Appendix F.  
 780 Recommended versions of vendor-neutral pseudo-codes for SUV calculation are given in Appendix G.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Frequency of testing	Imaging site	Shall perform testing, using the FDG-PET/CT DRO (Appendix F), of image analysis software when installed and after hardware or software updates.
Accuracy of SUV estimates	Imaging site analysis software	Shall reproduce exact known values for the FDG-PET/CT DRO (Appendix F). There are six test objects. The reported values include SUVmax, SUVmean, SUVmin, StdDev, and diameter/area. The normalizations include body weight and lean body mass.  The results of the DRO testing shall be recorded in accordance with directions as included in Appendix F and stored on site.  SUVpeak shall also be included as a reported value for the FDG-PET/CT DRO.

### 781 **3.6.5 Quality Control of FDG-PET/CT studies**

#### 782 **3.6.5.1 Data Integrity**

783 The integrity of DICOM image headers should be reviewed and confirmed for DICOM standard compliance,  
784 regulatory compliance (including privacy protection, such as may be required by such rules as the HIPAA  
785 Privacy Rule if applicable), protocol compliance, sufficiency for the intended analysis (e.g., to compute SUV)  
786 and consistency with source data such as CRFs. In some cases, internal references such as the liver can be  
787 used for quality control to confirm acceptable ranges of SUVs.

#### 788 **3.6.5.2 Determination of Image Quality**

789 CT images should be reviewed by the Image Analyst for assessment of image quality and for potential  
790 artifacts such as beam hardening, metal objects, and motion. PET images should be compared to the CT  
791 images for proper image registration and potential attenuation correction artifacts. Both uncorrected and  
792 attenuation corrected images may need to be assessed to identify any artifacts caused by contrast agents,  
793 metal implants and/or subject motion. For example, movement or mis-registration can lead to poor quality  
794 quantitative data and invalid numbers. Some images may be too poor in quality to quantify. Statistical  
795 quality of images is important to report, but not a full substitute for quality. Liver noise assessment as  
796 defined per PERCIST [Wahl 2009] is considered a reasonable start.

#### 797 **3.6.5.3 Determination of Evaluable Tumor Lesions**

798 The definition of specific tumors that are evaluable should be addressed prospectively in the clinical trial  
799 protocol. Protocol-specific guidelines should document whether or not minimum size criteria and/or  
800 minimum baseline SUV criteria for target lesion qualifications are used, and if so, how such criteria will be  
801 used.

802 The criteria below represent the best known practices based on published data, and can provide a guideline  
803 for determining evaluability.

##### 804 Selection of Target Lesions (UPICT Section 10.2.1.1)

805 The lesion to be measured should be free of artifacts, for example, from nearby intense FDG containing  
806 structures (like the bladder) or due to motion or attenuation correction artifacts.

##### 807 Minimum Baseline SUV (UPICT Section 10.2.1.1.1)

808 From the SNM Global Harmonization Summit (2010) and in the meta-analysis by de Langen et al (2012),  
809 there was consensus that to reliably measure a change in the FDG uptake of a lesion, a high baseline FDG  
810 uptake is necessary. For illustration, a 30% decrease in lesion uptake may be more reliably measured, and  
811 potentially more meaningful, if the initial lesion uptake had an SUV of 5 g/ml as opposed to an SUV of 2  
812 g/ml.

813 UPICT Acceptable level: Baseline lesion SUV of  $1.7-9 \times$  mean SUL or SUV of liver, which is based on the  
814 PERCIST criteria [Wahl 2009]. Less FDG avid lesions than the evaluable threshold of  $1.9 \times$  liver may still be  
815 studied, but caution is in order, as their low initial FDG uptake may make changes in SUV less informative.

816 The measurement for mean liver SUV is made using a 3-cm diameter spherical ROI placed in the right lobe  
817 of the liver at the level of main portal vein and equidistant between the porta hepatis and lateral liver  
818 margin. Care should be taken to avoid placing the ROI close to the edge of the liver [Subramaniam 2012].  
819 Further details are given in UPICT Section 10.2.1.1.1. If the liver is not in the field of view or is abnormal to a  
820 degree that normal liver cannot be assessed, then the alternate comparator is to use a minimum threshold

level of 2.0 x mean SUV of blood pool in a 3D ROI defined as a 1 cm diameter cylinder in the descending thoracic aorta extending over 2 cm, tracking the long axis of the aortic lumen, avoiding the wall of the aorta or areas of plaque or calcification. If the descending aorta is not evaluable a VOI of the same volume should be measured from elsewhere in the thoracic aorta.

#### Minimum Lesion Size

The SNM Global Harmonization Summit suggests that tumors should typically be over 2 cm in diameter for target lesion inclusion at baseline. Lesions smaller than 2 cm (or otherwise not easily measurable) with a high enough FDG uptake, may still be evaluable.

Evaluation of lesion size (e.g., longest diameter) may be difficult. This may be due to intrinsic lesion characteristics (e.g., infiltrative or CT lesion isodensity to surrounding tissue) or due to the anatomic location of tumor (e.g., bone marrow site). Lesions subject to partial volume effect of SUV measurement, notably due to anatomic location and attenuation correction errors (e.g., peri-diaphragmatic lesions at either lung base or hepatic dome) potentially should be excluded.

#### **3.6.5.4 Determination of subjects unsuitable for FDG-PET/CT analysis**

Reference Section 3.1.1 "Subject Selection, Timing, and Blood Glucose Levels"

#### **3.6.6 Quality Control of Interpretation**

To promote quantifiable performance standards for the quality control of interpretation there is a need for intra-reader variability studies. In a 2-Reader paradigm, then inter-reader variability is needed as well. It is currently unclear what statistics to evaluate and how these performance metrics should be used in the analysis.

## **4. Compliance**

### **Relation of this Profile to Expectations for QIBA Profile Compliance**

Definitions (from Appendix C):

Qualified: The imaging site is formally approved by an appropriate body (i.e. ACRIN, CQIE, SNM-CTN, EANM-EARL, NCRI, an imaging laboratory or CRO) for a specific clinical research study.

Accredited: Approval by an independent body or group for broad clinical usage (requires ongoing QA/QC) e.g. ACR, IAC, TJC.

Compliant: The imaging site and equipment meet all the requirements described herein, which are necessary to meet the QIBA Profile claim.

The requirements included here are intended to establish a baseline level of capabilities. Providing higher levels of performance or advanced capabilities is both allowed and encouraged. Furthermore the QIBA Profile is not intended to limit equipment suppliers in any way with respect to how they meet these requirements. Institutions meeting the stated criteria are considered to be QIBA Compliant.

### **4.1. Image Acquisition Site**

Typically clinical sites are selected due to their competence in oncology and access to a sufficiently large subject population under consideration. For imaging it is important to have availability of:

- Appropriate imaging equipment and quality control processes,

- 858 • Appropriate ancillary equipment and access to radiotracer and contrast material,
  - 859 • Experienced Technologists (CT and PET trained) for the subject handling and imaging procedure,
  - 860 • Appropriately trained Radiologists/Nuclear Medicine Physicians for image analysis and diagnostic
  - 861 interpretation,
  - 862 • Appropriately trained image analysts, with oversight by a Radiologist or Nuclear Medicine Physician,
  - 863 • Medical Physics support to ensure appropriate scanner and equipment calibration,
  - 864 • Processes that assure imaging QIBA Profile-compliant image generation in appropriate time window
- 865 A QA/QC program for PET/CT scanners and ancillary devices must be in place to achieve the goals of the
- 866 clinical trial. The minimum requirements are specified above. This program shall include (a) elements to
- 867 verify that imaging facilities are performing imaging studies correctly and (b) elements to verify that
- 868 facility's PET/CT scanners are performing within specified calibration values. These may involve
- 869 additional PET and CT phantom testing that address issues relating to both radiation dose and image
- 870 quality (which may include issues relating to water calibration, uniformity, noise, spatial resolution – in
- 871 the axial plane-, reconstructed slice thickness z-axis resolution, contrast scale, and others. This phantom
- 872 testing may be done in addition to the QA program defined by the device manufacturer as it evaluates
- 873 performance that is specific to the goals of the clinical trial.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
PET/CT Scanner	Acquisition Facility	This Profile shall only address full ring PET/CT scanners.
CT Scanner Calibration	Technologist	Shall perform daily water equivalent phantom analysis; ensure that output is acceptable and manually enter on form /electronic database.
PET Scanner Calibration	Technologist	Shall perform daily/weekly/monthly scanner QA; ensure that output values are acceptable and manually enter on form/electronic database
Radionuclide calibrator		Calibrated to F-18 using NIST traceable source or equivalent.

875

876 **4.2. PET/CT Acquisition Device**

877 The PET/CT scanner should use DICOM attributes to follow version numbers of software for: 1 Acquisition,

878 2 Reconstruction, 3 Post-processing, 4 Display/ROI analysis, 5 Dynamic Analysis. The PET/CT scanner should

879 be able to build a list on the console of the dates of all software versions. The scanner software version

880 should be identified and tracked across time, with updates and changes in scanner software noted during

881 the course of the trial.

882 The PET scan acquisition start time should be used for the decay reference time and the integral model

883 should be used for decay correction. The scanner should perform all decay corrections (i.e. not the

884 operator). Image data are to be given in units Bq/ml.

**Comment [ep12]:** Item # 22 – this informative text belongs with the normative text in Section 4.5

885 The Decay Correction (0054,1102) field is the real-world event to which images in this Series were decay  
 886 corrected. If decay correction is applied, all images in the Series shall be decay corrected to the same time.  
 887 The Defined Terms and definitions are:  
 888 NONE = no decay correction  
 889 START= acquisition start time, Acquisition Time (0008,0032)  
 890 ADMIN = radiopharmaceutical administration time, Radiopharmaceutical Start Time (0018,1072).  
 891 The time to which images have been decay corrected can be derived from Decay Factor (0054,1321), Frame  
 892 Reference Time (0054,1300), Radionuclide Half Life (0018,1075), Series Date (0008,0021), and Series Time  
 893 (0008,0031).  
 894 All needed information for fully corrected administered activity (e.g. residual activity, injection time,  
 895 calibration time) is required. Note that use of the term administered activity below refers to fully corrected  
 896 net radioactivity.  
 897 Baseline level (i.e. equivalent to the UPICT protocol level of 'Acceptable') compliance requires that the  
 898 DICOM image set from the subject's PET/CT scan and necessary metadata (that is not currently captured by  
 899 all PET scanner acquisition processes) is captured in trial documentation, e.g. case report forms. The  
 900 metadata is required to perform the quantitative analysis and perform quality control on SUV covariates.  
 901 This includes for example, post-injection residual activity and subject height. This data should be captured  
 902 in the 'Common Data Format Mechanism' as described in Appendix E.

903 The DICOM format used by the PET/CT scanner should meet the Conformance Statement written by  
 904 manufacturer of the PET/CT system. PET data shall be encoded in the DICOM PET or Enhanced PET Image  
 905 Storage SOP Class, and in activity-concentration units (Bq/ml) with additional parameters in public DICOM  
 906 fields to calculate SUVs (e.g. height, weight, scale factors). CT data should be encoded in CT or Enhanced CT  
 907 Image Storage SOP Class. DICOM data shall be transferred using the DICOM Part 8 network protocol or as  
 908 offline DICOM Part 10 files for media storage including CDs and DVDs. They shall be transferred without any  
 909 form of lossy compression.

910 The meta-information is the information that is separate, or in addition to, the image values (in units of  
 911 Bq/ml) that is deemed necessary for quantitatively accurate representation of PET SUVs. The meta-  
 912 information may also include other information beyond that need for calculation of SUVs, i.e. the type and  
 913 or sequencing of therapy, the blood glucose levels, the scanner SUV stability history, etc.- The actual  
 914 mechanism of capturing the information is not specified in this Profile. The intent here is to list what  
 915 information should be captured rather than the mechanism itself. The mechanism can range from paper  
 916 notes, to scanned forms or electronic data records, to direct entry from the measurement equipment into  
 917 pre-specified DICOM fields (i.e. from the PET/CT scanner or auxiliary measurement devices such as the  
 918 radionuclide calibrator). Ideally all of the specified meta-data will be captured by direct electronic entry to  
 919 DICOM fields, after suitable modification of the DICOM format for PET imaging.

920 The concept endorsed here is that the needed meta-data is identified. Through revisions of this Profile, the  
 921 DICOM standard, and technology the meta-data is inserted into the analysis stream (Figure 3) in a more  
 922 direct manner and technology and accepted standards evolve.

923

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
CT calibration tracking	Acquisition Device	Daily water equivalent phantom values shall be tracked in the DICOM header.
PET calibration	Acquisition	Daily/weekly/monthly scanner QA values shall be included in the

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
tracking	Device	DICOM header.
Radionuclide calibrator calibration tracking	Acquisition Device	Calibration factor for an F-18 NIST -traceable (or equivalent) source with identifying information shall be tracked in the DICOM header.
PET Scanner calibration	Acquisition Device	<p>Shall be able to be calibrated according to the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using an ACRIN type uniform cylinder containing FDG in water (ideally the same used for radionuclide calibrator cross-calibration)</li> <li>Using a long scan time of 60 min or more, and an ACRIN-type ROI analysis</li> </ul> <p>The average measured SUV shall be in the range of 0.98 to 1.02.</p> <p>Slice-to-slice variability shall be no more than <math>\pm 5\%</math>. (not including end slices, as per ACRIN).</p> <p>In-plane uniformity for above phantom shall be less than 5 %.</p>
Weight	Acquisition Device	<p>Shall be able to record patient weight in lbs or kg as supplied from the modality worklist and/or operator entry into scanner interface. Shall be stored in Patient Weight field (0010,1030) in the DICOM image header, as per DICOM standard.</p> <p>Patient weight shall be specifiable with 4 significant digits.</p> <p>Patient weight is transferred directly from measurement device into scanner by electronic, HIS/RIS, or other means, bypassing all operator entry, but still requiring operator verification.</p>
Height	Acquisition Device	<p>Shall be able to record patient height in feet/inches or cm/m as supplied from the modality worklist and/or operator entry into scanner interface. Shall be stored in Patient Size field (0010,1020) in the DICOM image header, as per DICOM standard.</p> <p>Patient height shall be specifiable with 3 significant digits.</p> <p>Patient height is transferred directly from measurement device into scanner by electronic, HIS/RIS, or other means, bypassing all operator entry, but still requiring operator verification.</p>
Blood glucose level	Acquisition Device	<p>Shall be able to Record patient blood glucose level, in units of mg/dl, or mMol/l, time of measurement, as supplied by operator entry into the scanner interface. Shall be recorded in a dedicated field in the DICOM image header.</p> <p>Patient blood glucose level is transferred directly from measurement</p>

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
		device into scanner by electronic, HIS/RIS, or other means, bypassing all operator entry, but still requiring operator verification.
Administered Radionuclide	Acquisition Device	<p>Shall be able to accept the radionuclide type (i.e. F-18) from the DICOM Modality Worklist.</p> <p>Shall be able to enter the radionuclide type (i.e. F-18) by operator entry into the scanner interface.</p> <p>Shall be recorded in Radionuclide Code Sequence (0054,0300) in the DICOM image header (e.g., (C-111A1, SRT, “<sup>18</sup>Fluorine”).</p>
		<p>Shall be able to accept the radionuclide type (i.e. F-18) directly from the measurement device into scanner by electronic, HIS/RIS, or other means, bypassing all operator entry, but still requiring operator verification.</p>
Administered Radiotracer	Acquisition Device	<p>Shall be able to record the radiotracer (i.e. FDG), as supplied by operator entry into the scanner interface. Shall be recorded in Radiotracer Code Sequence field (0054,0300) in the DICOM image header, e.g., (C-B1031, SRT, “Fluorodeoxyglucose F<sup>18</sup>”).</p>
Administered Radiotracer radioactivity	Acquisition Device	<p>Shall be able to record the administered radioactivity , in both MBq and mCi , as supplied by operator entry into the scanner interface. Shall be recorded in Radionuclide Total Dose field (0018,1074) in the DICOM image header.</p>
		<p>Shall be able to record with separate entry fields on scanner interface:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the pre-injection FDG radioactivity</li> <li>(2) time of measurement of pre-injection FDG radioactivity</li> <li>(3) the residual activity after injection</li> <li>(4) time of measurement the residual radioactivity after injection</li> </ol> <p>Shall automatically calculate the administered radioactivity and store in the Radionuclide Total Dose field (0018,1074) in the DICOM image header.</p>
		<p>Patient Administered Radiotracer radioactivity information shall be transferred directly from measurement device into scanner by electronic, HIS/RIS, or other means, bypassing all operator entry, but still requiring operator verification.</p>

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Administered Radiotracer Time	Acquisition Device	Shall be able to record the time of the start of activity injection as supplied by operator entry into the scanner interface. Shall be recorded in Radiopharmaceutical Start Date Time field (0018,1078) (preferred) or Radiopharmaceutical Start Time field (0018,1072).
		Shall be able to record the time of the start of activity injection as supplied by operator entry into the scanner interface. Shall be recorded in Radiopharmaceutical Start Date Time field (0018,1078). I.e. not Radiopharmaceutical Start Time field (0018,1072).
		Shall be able to record the time of the stop of activity injection as supplied by operator entry into the scanner interface. Shall be recorded in Radiopharmaceutical Stop Date Time field (0018,1079).
Decay Correction Methodology	Acquisition Device	<p>Encoded voxel values with Rescale Slope field (0028,1053) applied shall be decay corrected by the scanner software (not the operator) to a single reference time (regardless of bed position), which is the start time of the first acquisition, which shall be encoded in the Series Time field (0008,0031) for original images.</p> <p>Corrected Image field (0028,0051) shall include the value "DECY" and Decay Correction field (0054,1102) shall be "START".</p>
Scanning Workflow	Acquisition Device	Shall be able to support Profile Protocol (Section 3) PET and CT order(s) of acquisition.
		Shall be able to pre-define and save (by imaging site) a Profile acquisition Protocol for patient acquisition.
		<p>Shall be able to interpret previously-reconstructed patient images to regenerate acquisition protocol.</p> <p>Shall be configurable to store (or receive) acquisition parameters as pre-defined protocols (in a proprietary or standard format), to allow re-use of such stored protocols to meet multi-center specifications and to achieve repeatable performance across time points for the same subject.</p>
CT Acquisition Parameters	Acquisition Device	Shall record all key acquisition parameters in the CT image header, using standard DICOM fields. Includes but not limited to: Actual Field of View, Scan Duration, Scan Plane, Total Collimation Width, Single Collimation Width, Scan Pitch, Tube Potential, Tube Current, Rotation Time, Exposure and Slice Width in the DICOM image header.
CT based attenuation correction	Acquisition Device	Shall record information in PET DICOM image header which CT images were used for corrections (attenuation, scatter, etc.).
PET-CT Alignment	Acquisition Device	Shall be able to align PET and CT images within $\pm 2$ mm in any direction.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
		Shall be able to align PET and CT images within $\pm 2$ mm in any direction under maximum load over the co-scan length.
CT Absorbed Radiation Dose	Acquisition Device	Shall record the absorbed dose (CTDI, DLP) in a DICOM Radiation Dose Structured Report.
PET Radiation Dose	Acquisition Device	Shall record the radiation dose from the administered activity and accompanying information in a DICOM Radiopharmaceutical Administration Radiation Dose Structured Report.
Activity Concentration in the Reconstructed Images	Acquisition Device	Shall be able to store and record (rescaled) image data in units of Bq/ml and use a value of BQML for Units field (0054,1001).
Tracer Uptake Time	Acquisition Device	Shall be derivable from the difference between the Radiopharmaceutical Date Time field (0018,1078) (preferred) or Radiopharmaceutical Start Time field (0018,1072) and the Series Time field (0008,0031) or earliest Acquisition Time field (0008,0032) in the series (i.e., the start of acquisition at the first bed position), which should be reported as series time field (0008,0031).
		<u>Shall display, or include link to display, the number of minutes between injection and initiation of imaging.</u>
PET Voxel size	Acquisition Device	Shall be able to reconstruct PET voxels with a size of 3 to 4 mm in all three dimensions (as recorded in Voxel Spacing field (0028,0030) and computed from the reconstruction interval between Image Position (Patient) (0020,0032) values of successive slices). Pixels shall be square, although voxels are not required to be isotropic in the z (head-foot) axis. Shall be able to reconstruct PET voxels with a size of 1-3 mm in all three dimensions (as recorded in Voxel Spacing field (0028,0030) and computed from the reconstruction interval between Image Position (Patient) (0020,0032) values of successive slices). Voxels shall be isotropic.
CT Voxel size	Acquisition Device	Shall be no greater than the reconstructed PET voxel size. Voxels shall be square, although are not required to be isotropic in the Z (head-foot) axis. Not required to be the same as the reconstructed PET voxel size.
Subject Positioning	Acquisition Device	Shall be able to record the subject position in the Patient Orientation Code Sequence field (0054,0410) (whether prone or supine) and Patient Gantry Relationship Code field Sequence (0054,0414)

**Comment [ep13]:** Item # 45: Explicit report of calculated minutes between injection and initiation of imaging, rather than requiring user to make the calculations from data.

Shall display, or include link to display, the number of minutes between injection and initiation of imaging”

ed: Is the implication here that target/minimum is already for Acq. Device to do this? If not, consider add 'greyed row' below this. DISPLAY capability. . see inserted row here..

**Comment [ep14]:** Should this item be included here or only in workstation display section?

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
		(whether head or feet first).
Scanning Direction	Acquisition Device	Shall be able to record the scanning direction (craniocaudal v. caudocranial) into an appropriate DICOM field.
Documentation of Exam Specification	Acquisition Device	Shall be able to record and define the x-y axis FOV acquired in Field of View Dimensions (0018,1149) and reconstructed in Reconstruction Diameter (0018,1100).
		Shall be able to define the extent of anatomic coverage based on distance from defined landmark site (e.g. vertex, EAM). (both the landmark location (anatomically) and the distance scanned from landmark) would require DICOM tags).  Shall be able to be reportable for future scanning sessions.  The Acquisition Device shall record the z-axis FOV which represents the actual distance of scan anatomic coverage (cms) as well as the number of bed positions.
Bed Position Temporal Differences	Acquisition Device	Shall be able to provide and document non uniform scan times for different bed positions dependent upon areas of clinical concern.
DICOM Compliance	Acquisition Device	All image data and scan parameters shall be transferable using appropriate DICOM fields according to the DICOM conformance statement for the PET/CT scanner.
DICOM Data transfer and storage format	PET/CT Scanner or Display Workstation	PET images shall be encoded in the DICOM PET or Enhanced PET Image Storage SOP Class, using activity-concentration units (Bq/ml) with additional parameters stored in public DICOM fields to enable calculation of SUVs.
		PET images shall be transferred and stored without any form of lossy compression.

924

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
DICOM Editing	Acquisition Device	Shall be able to edit all fields relevant for SUV calculation and blood glucose before image distribution from scanner.  Shall provide appropriate warnings if overriding of the current values is initiated.

925

### 926 4.3. Reconstruction Software

927 Reconstruction Software shall propagate the information collected at the prior Subject Handling and  
928 Imaging Acquisition stages and extend it with those items noted in the Reconstruction section.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Metadata	Reconstruction Software	Shall be able to accurately propagate the information collected at the prior stages and extend it with those items noted in the Reconstruction section.

929 Data can be reconstructed including all corrections needed for quantification as well as without scatter and  
 930 attenuation correction. Analytical or iterative reconstruction methods should be applied.

931 Standardization of reconstruction settings is necessary to obtain comparable resolution and SUV recoveries  
 932 across the same subject and inter-subject across sites.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Data Corrections	Reconstruction Software	PET emission data must be able to be corrected for geometrical response and detector efficiency, system dead time, random coincidences, scatter and attenuation.
Reconstruction Methodology	Reconstruction Software	Shall be able to provide both iterative and analytical (e.g. filtered back projection) reconstruction algorithms.  <del>Shall be able to 'turn-off' resolution recovery and/or time of flight (TOF) capabilities (if available) for purposes of reconstruction.</del>
Reconstruction Methodology / Output	Reconstruction Software	Shall be able to perform reconstructions with and without <del>scatter</del> and attenuation correction.
Data Reconstruction 2D/3D Compatibility	Reconstruction Software	Shall be able to perform reconstruction of data acquired in 3D mode using 3D image reconstruction algorithms.  If 3D mode data can be re-binned into 2D mode, shall be able to perform reconstruction of data acquired in 3D mode using 2D image reconstruction algorithms.  Shall be able to perform reconstruction of data acquired in 2D mode using 2D image reconstruction algorithms.
Quantitative calibration	Reconstruction software	Shall apply appropriate quantitative calibration factors such that all images have units of activity concentration, e.g. kBq/mL.
Multi-bed data	Reconstruction software	Shall combine data from multiple over-lapping bed positions (including appropriate decay corrections) so as to produce a single three dimensional image volume.
Voxel size	Reconstruction software	Shall allow the user to define the image voxel size by adjusting the matrix dimensions and/or diameter of the reconstruction field-of-view.
Reconstruction parameters	Reconstruction software	Shall allow the user to control image noise and spatial resolution by adjusting reconstruction parameters, e.g. number of iterations, post-reconstruction filters.

**Comment [ep15]:** Re: Comment 60: consider delete this

**Comment [ep16]:** Re: Comment 60 - delete

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Reconstruction protocols	Reconstruction software	Shall allow a set of reconstruction parameters to be saved and automatically applied (without manual intervention) to future studies as needed.

933

#### 934 4.4. Image Analysis Workstation

935 The image analysis workstation shall have the ability to receive and propagate the data output (imaging and  
 936 metadata) collected from the prior activities (Subject Handling, Image Acquisition, Reconstruction and Post-  
 937 Processing). With the input data, the analysis workstation (and software analysis tools) will be able to make  
 938 use of certain attribute values to perform certain measurements and computational analysis. The analysis  
 939 workstation and software may be coupled to the PET/CT scanner system or provided by a 3rd-party vendor.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Metadata	Image Analysis Workstation	Shall be able to accurately propagate the information collected at the prior stages and extend it with those items noted in the Image Analysis Workstation section.
		Shall be able to display all information that affects SUVs either directly in calculation (e.g. patient weight, injected activity) or indirectly (uptake time, plasma glucose concentration).

940

941 Input for Image Analysis is considered output of Reconstruction and Post processing software activity. If the  
 942 Image Analyst alters input data (e.g. zoom) this is considered part of Image Analysis activity. If this occurs,  
 943 the original input data will be maintained as a separate file, both to be stored, including description of  
 944 manipulation in an audit trail file or in a dedicated DICOM tag section (Section 3.2).

945 A check should be performed by receiving devices that the Series Time field (0008,0031) is not later than  
 946 the earliest Acquisition Time field (0008,0032) of all images in the Series in case the images have been  
 947 derived (i.e. changing the time to an inappropriate value for decay correction).

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Reference time for decay correction	Image Analysis Workstation	Shall check that the Series Time field (0008,0031) is not later than the earliest Acquisition Time field (0008,0032) for all images in the Series. If not, the earliest Acquisition Time (0008,0032) shall be used as the reference time for decay correction.

948

##### 949 4.4.1 Region of Interest (ROI) definition

950 The scanner-display-analysis system shall provide a tool for the user to define both 2D and 3D regions of  
 951 interest (ROIs). These ROIs will then be used calculate SUV values as described in the next section.

952 The specifications below are for defined regions for the calculation of (1) average value within an ROI (i.e.  
 953 SUVmean) (2) maximum value within an ROI (i.e. SUVmax) (3) average value within a fixed-size ROI (i.e.

954 SUVpeak) (4) average value within a fixed-size ROI (i.e. SUVpeak), but with the location automatically  
 955 selected to maximize the mean value. For SUVpeak measures, the use of partial voxel values to secure a  
 956 1.2cm diameter sphere (or 1cc volume) ROI is appropriate and desirable.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Voxel Inclusion Policy	Analysis Tool	Shall describe methodology describing voxel inclusion and weighting policy including placement criteria, total volume, and geometry of resulting ROI (e.g. rectangular volume or spherical).
		Use weighting for partial voxels; fully included voxels use weight of 1.0. Weighting should be proportionate to volumes of voxels that are partly included.
ROI Specifications	Analysis Tool	Shall describe capabilities and limits of ROI specification and placement.
		Dimensions and center location of ROI (box, ellipse, or ellipsoid) shall be specifiable to $\pm 1$ mm.
		For SUVpeak measures, the location within a target search region that yields the highest mean value of a 1 cc region shall be found automatically and reproducibly.
ROI Definition Tools	Analysis Tool	Shall provide a tool and user strategy to allow the placement of an ROI to determine the <u>average</u> value within the ROI.
		Shall provide a tool and user strategy to allow the placement of an ROI to determine the value and location of the voxel with the <u>maximum</u> value within an ROI.
		Shall provide a tool and user strategy to allow the placement of a 1 cm diameter ROI (either 2D or 3D) to determine the average value within the ROI.
		Shall provide a tool and user strategy to allow automatic placement of a 1 cm diameter ROI (either 2D or 3D) such that the average value within the ROI is maximized.
Edge/Volume Detection	Analysis Tool	Shall provide threshold methods for defining an ROI based on image values.
		Shall clearly specify which threshold method is used and relevant parameters values.
		Three ROI definition methods shall be provided: Fixed value, % of maximum voxel, or edge detection/segmentation methods.
ROI saving/retrieve	Analysis/Archival	Shall have the capability to label, save, recall ROIs using DICOM structured sets.
		Shall have the capability to track tumor information across longitudinal scans.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
ROI <del>Output-Display</del> Statistics	Analysis Tool	<p>Shall have the capability to output to the screen display the selected statistics of the ROI. These include, but are not limited to: Area, volume, mean, maximum, minimum, standard deviation. Units can be selectable as activity concentration [Bq/ml] or SUV [g/ml]- <a href="#">(See Section 3.4.3)</a>.</p> <p>Shall <del>have the capability to output display</del> results with at least two decimal places.</p> <p>Shall output ROI Output Statistics to Structured Data Reporting DICOM files.</p> <p>Shall calculate results directly from the originally reconstructed voxels (not from interpolated and/or zoomed images).</p>

**Comment [ep17]:** Item #27: This request is addressed here; currently not included as requirement for Acq Device display.

957 The workstation and repository shall be able to create, store and retrieve markups (i.e. ROIs) used for SUV  
 958 measurements in accordance with a standard definition for ROIs that provides a known balance between  
 959 precision and accuracy.

960 **4.4.2 Calculation of Standardized Uptake Value (SUV)**

961 The ROI definition and analysis software is responsible for SUV calculation, e.g. with decay correction to the  
 962 appropriate reference time. Moreover, the manufacturer should implement both versions of SUV  
 963 normalizations (body weight or lean body mass). Recommended vendor-neutral pseudo-codes for SUV  
 964 calculation are given in Appendix G.

965

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
SUV Calculation	Analysis Tool	Shall have the capability to correctly calculate SUVs according to the vendor-neutral pseudo-codes for SUV calculation given in Appendix G.
Volume of Distribution Surrogate	Analysis Tool	<p>Shall have the capability to calculate SUVs using as a surrogate for the Volume of Distribution: body weight, lean body mass, and body surface area (BSA).</p> <p>Lean body mass shall be calculated according to the formula of James [James 1976, Hallynck 1981]:</p> <p>Males: <math>LBM = 1.10(w) - 128(w^2/h^2)</math></p> <p>Females: <math>LBM = 1.07(w) - 148(w^2/h^2)</math></p> <p>Body surface area shall be calculated according to the Du Bois formula: <math>BSA (m^2) = (0.007184)((w)^{0.425})((h)^{0.725})</math></p> <p>[Vu 2002]</p> <p>Where w = weight in kg and h = height in cm.</p>

966

#### 4.4.3 Image Analysis Workstation Performance Specifications

The digital reference object (DRO), which is a synthetic PET (and CT) image, shall be used in order to evaluate compliance to the level of performance of analysis station/display station. Users should use the DRO (as per the DRO user's guide in Appendix F) to verify correct implementation of ROI placement, SUV calculations, and PET and CT image alignment.

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Performance Evaluation	Analysis Workstation	Shall use the DRO to verify adequate performance as described in Appendix F.
Analysis Accuracy	Analysis Workstation	For each of the specified ROIs in the DRO (Appendix F) the correct SUV values shall be replicated by the Analysis Workstation.
Alignment Accuracy	Analysis Workstation	The PET and CT DRO object shall appear perfectly aligned in the transverse, coronal, and sagittal views.
DICOM Compliance	Analysis Workstation	All image data and scan parameters shall be readable and transferable using appropriate DICOM fields according to the DICOM conformance statement for the originating PET/CT scanner.

#### 4.5. Software version tracking

At a minimum, Software Versions should be manually recorded during the qualification along with the phantom imaging performance data and the record should be updated for every software-upgrade over the duration of the trial. This includes the flagging of the impact on quantification for now; in the future, record all software version numbers in DICOM header.

**Comment [ep18]:** Item #22 – consider inserting informative text here?

Parameter	Entity/Actor	Specification
Hardware Version tracking	Service Engineers	Shall update Hardware Version in scanner after any major equipment upgrade.
Hardware Version tracking	Scanner	Shall enter Hardware Version in appropriate DICOM field.
Software Version tracking	Acquisition Device	Shall record the software version(s) used for acquisition and reconstruction in appropriate DICOM field(s).
Software version back-testing compatibility	Workstation	Shall provide mechanism to provide analysis of the image data using updated as well as prior (platform-specific) versions of analysis software.

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**Comment [ep19]:** Item # 46: Consider adding reference here.

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1092

## 1093 Appendices

### 1094 Appendix A: Acknowledgements and Attributions

1095 This document is proffered by the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Quantitative Imaging

1096 Biomarker Alliance (QIBA) FDG-PET/CT Technical Committee. The FDG-PET/CT Technical Committee is  
 1097 composed of physicians, scientists, engineers and statisticians representing the imaging device  
 1098 manufacturers, image analysis software developers, image analysis facilities and laboratories,  
 1099 biopharmaceutical companies, academic institutions, government research organizations, professional  
 1100 societies, and regulatory agencies, among others. A more detailed description of the QIBA FDG-PET/CT  
 1101 group and its work can be found at the following web link: [http://qibawiki.rsna.org/index.php?title=FDG-  
 PET\\_tech\\_ctte](http://qibawiki.rsna.org/index.php?title=FDG-<br/>
  1102 PET_tech_ctte)

1103 The FDG-PET/CT Technical Committee (in alphabetical order):

1104 [List members here](#)

1105 The FDG-PET/CT Technical Committee is deeply grateful for the support and technical assistance provided  
 1106 by the staff of the Radiological Society of North America.

1107

## 1108 **Appendix B: Background Information for Claim**

1109 A number of publications report test-retest repeatability for tumor SUV measurements with FDG PET  
 1110 [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9]. Table 1 lists these publications and summarizes some of their results. Comparing  
 1111 repeatability measurements from the various reports is complicated by the different methodologies  
 1112 employed in each study and also the different metrics used to characterize repeatability.

1113 As expected, the region-of-interest (ROI) or volume-of-interest (VOI) methodology varied between  
 1114 publications. Minn et al [1] report SUV<sub>mean</sub> derived from a fixed size 1.2 × 1.2 cm region-of-interest.  
 1115 Weber et al [2] report SUV<sub>mean</sub> derived from a volume-of-interest defined by a 50% isocontour. The  
 1116 remaining papers report SUV<sub>max</sub>, although data for multiple ROI definitions were sometimes reported.  
 1117 Because SUV<sub>max</sub> was more commonly reported amongst these repeatability papers and was more  
 1118 comparable between studies, table 1 focused primarily on SUV<sub>max</sub>.

1119 Nahmias and Wahl [5] report SUV<sub>max</sub> but, unlike the other publications, they present their results in  
 1120 absolute SUV units, as opposed to relative units. Direct comparison with the other reports was therefore  
 1121 not possible. Kamibayashi et al [6] compared the repeatability of SUVs measured on different scanner  
 1122 systems, whereas the other reports involve test-retest studies on the same scanner. For this reason the  
 1123 Kamibayashi data were also not directly comparable with the other papers. The remaining publications  
 1124 [3,4,7,8] are amenable to more direct comparison as they all report the repeatability of SUV<sub>max</sub>, with test  
 1125 and retest studies both performed on the same scanner system.

1126 A further complication when comparing reports is the different metrics used to characterize repeatability.  
 1127 In table 1 we translate the reported repeatability measurements to a within-subject coefficient of variation  
 1128 (wCOV) to allow a more direct comparison. Based on the data in the last 4 rows of table 1 [3,4,7,8], it can  
 1129 be seen that the within subject coefficient of variation for SUV<sub>max</sub> was in the range 10.01 – 11.9 %.

1130 Table 2 summarizes the relationships that were involved in converting the published repeatability  
 1131 parameters to within-subject coefficient of variation.

**Comment [ep20]:** Item # 39: This was subsequently performed by RSNA staff and will be inserted at next update.

Table 1. Selected repeatability parameters extracted from literature publications. Where multiple SUV types were reported, preference was given to SUVmax as this SUV definition was more comparable between studies. The column marked "Inferred wCV" is an estimate of the within-subject coefficient of variation based upon the reported parameters and may not appear in the original manuscripts. Details of how these "Inferred wCV" values were derived are described in the text and table 2.

Publication	SUV Type	Repeatability Parameter	Parameter Value	Where in Manuscript	Inferred wCV	Comment
Minn 1995 [1]	SUVmean	Mean absolute percentage difference	10 %	Table 4	8.86 %	n=10; 1.2 x 1.2 cm ROI
Weber 1999 [2]	SUVmean	SD of the percentage difference	9.1 %	Table 2	6.43 %	n=16; 50 % isocontour VOI
Nahmias 2008 [5]	SUVmax	SD of the difference	1.14 SUV	Page 1806	Not available	n=26; Results reported in absolute SUV units
Kamibayashi 2008 [6]	SUVmax	Mean absolute percentage difference	16.1 %	Table 4	14.27 %	n=45; Two different PET scanners
Nakamoto 2002 [3]	SUVmax	Mean absolute percentage difference	11.3 %	Table 4	10.01 %	n=10
Krak 2005 [4]	SUVmax	Mean absolute percentage difference	13 %	Table 2	11.52 %	n=29
Velasquez 2009 [7]	SUVmax	Within subject coefficient of variation	11.9 %	Table 5	11.9 %	n=45; Multi-center study after centralized quality assurance and analysis
Hatt 2010 [8]	SUVmax	SD of the percentage difference	16.7 %	Table 2	11.81 %	n=17

Table 2. Relationships used to compare repeatability metrics found in the literature.

Parameter	Symbol	Relationship	Comment
Percentage difference	D	$100 \times (SUV_2 - SUV_1) / 0.5 \times (SUV_1 + SUV_2)$	Test-retest difference expressed as a percentage of the mean
Mean absolute percentage difference of D	D_MAD	Mean of  D  over all subjects	D  is the absolute value of D
Standard deviation of D	D_SD	Standard deviation of D over all subjects	$D\_SD = D\_MAD / \sqrt{2/\pi}$ for normally distributed data
Within subject coefficient of variation	wCV	$D\_SD / \sqrt{2}$	Reflects repeatability of a single measurement
Repeatability		$1.96 \times \sqrt{2} \times wCV$	Reflects 95 % limits of repeatability for the difference between two measurements

One assumption that was made during these conversions was that the percentage difference (D) between test-retest SUV measurements was normally distributed with zero mean. While this assumption may not be strictly applicable over a wide range of SUVs, it is an assumption that is implicitly being made whenever 95% limits of repeatability are employed [7,8]. Applying this same assumption to the studies that report the mean absolute percentage difference (D\_MAD) allows their results to be simply related to the other publications that report the standard deviation by  $D\_MAD = (\sqrt{2/\pi})\sigma$ ;  $0.80\sigma$ , as shown below.

$$D\_MAD = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x - \mu| e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx$$

$$= \frac{2}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} (x - \mu) e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx$$

1142 let  $r = \frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$ , and  $dr = \frac{(x - \mu)}{\sigma^2} dx$ , and limits are unchanged  $\int_{x=0}^{x=\infty} \rightarrow \int_{r=0}^{r=\infty}$

then,

$$D\_MAD = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \sigma \int_0^{\infty} e^{-r} dr = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \sigma e^{-r} \Big|_0^{\infty} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \sigma [1 - 0] = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \sigma ; 0.80\sigma$$

1143  
1144 **References**

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1166 [Clin Nucl Med. 2013 Mar;38\(3\):175-82. doi: 10.1097/RLU.0b013e318279ffdf. PMID 23354032 \[PubMed - in](#)  
1167 [process\] Variance of SUVs for FDG-PET/CT is greater in clinical practice than under ideal study settings.](#)  
1168

**Comment [ep21]:** Item #46. Included Reference. RSNA staff please help with formatting and PMID reference or not.

1170 **Appendix C: Conventions and Definitions**

1171 **Convention Used to Represent Profile requirements**

1172 Requirements for adhering to this Profile are presented in tables/boxes as shown in the example below.  
 1173 Shaded boxes are intended future requirements, and are not at this time required for adhering to the  
 1174 Profile.

1175 Illustrative example:

1176 Parameter Entity/Actor Normative text: Clear boxes are current requirements  
 1177 Shaded boxes are intended for future requirements

Lesion Analysis: Multiple Voxels	Analysis Tool	Shall provide tools to measure and report SUVmean and SUVmax normalized to body weight.
		Shall provide tools to measure and report SUVmean SUVmax and SUVpeak, normalized to body weight or lean body mass.

1178 Items within tables are normative (i.e. required in order to be compliant with the QIBA protocol). The intent  
 1179 of the normative text is to be prescriptive and detailed to facilitate implementation. In general the intent is  
 1180 to specify the final state or output, and not how that is to be achieved.

1181 All other text outside of these tables is considered informative only.

1182 **Definitions**

1183 ROI: Region of interest. A region in an image that is specified in some manner, typically with user-controlled  
 1184 graphical elements that can be either 2D areas or 3D volumes. These elements include, but not limited to,  
 1185 ellipses, ellipsoids, rectangles, rectangular volumes, circles, cylinders, polygons, and free-form  
 1186 shapes. An ROI can also defined by a segmentation algorithm that operates on the image. Segmentation  
 1187 algorithms include, but are not limited to, fixed-value thresholding, fixed-percentage thresholding,  
 1188 gradient edge detection, and Bayesian methods. With the definition of an ROI, metrics are then  
 1189 calculated for the portion of the image within the ROI. These metrics can include, but are not limited to,  
 1190 mean, maximum, standard deviation, and volume or area. Note that the term ROI can refer to a 2D area  
 1191 on a single image slice or a 3D volume. In some cases the term ROI is used to refer to 2D area and the  
 1192 term volume of interest (VOI) is used to refer to a 3D volume. In this Profile the term ROI is used to  
 1193 refer to both 2D areas and 3D volumes as needed.

1194 VOI: Volume of interest. See definition for ROI.

1195 Dose: Can refer to either radiation dose or as a jargon term for 'total radioactivity'. For example, 10 mCi of  
 1196 <sup>18</sup>F-FDG is often referred to as a 10 mCi dose.

1197 SUV: Standardized uptake value. A measure of relative radiotracer uptake within the body. Typically  
 1198 defined for a time point  $t$  as  $SUV(t) = \frac{r(t)}{d' / \tilde{V}^k}$  where  $r(t)$  is the measured radioactivity concentration  
 1199 within the ROI (typically in units of kBq/ml),  $d'$  is the decay-corrected injected radioactivity (or 'dose'),  
 1200 and  $\tilde{V}$  is a surrogate for the distribution volume. Typically patient weight or lean body mass are used  
 1201 for  $\tilde{V}$ .

1202 Notes:

**Comment [ep22]:** Item # 40 Part b. Clarification added.

- 1203 1. The SUV can change over time, so measuring  $r(t)$  at a consistent time point is recommended.
- 1204 2. Either body weight or lean body mass are used for a surrogate for the distribution volume, so the  
1205 SUV units are g/ml (Section 3.4.3)-
- 1206 3. For a uniform distribution of radiotracer, the SUV everywhere would be exactly 1 g/ml.
- 1207 4. The measured SUV statistic is typically one of the following:
- 1208 i. SUVmean: The average SUV within the ROI.
- 1209 ii. SUVmax: The maximum SUV within the ROI.
- 1210 iii. SUVpeak: The average SUV within a fixed-sized ROI, typically a 1 cm diameter sphere. The  
1211 spheres location is adjusted such that the average SUV is maximized.
- 1212 iv. TLG: Total lesion glycolysis. The summed SUV within the ROI.
- 1213 Profile:
- 1214 18F-FDG or FDG: 2-deoxy-2-(18F)fluoro-D-glucose, a glucose analog, with the positron-emitting radioactive  
1215 isotope fluorine-18 substituted for the normal hydroxyl group at the 2' position in the glucose molecule.  
1216 FDG is the most commonly used (>90%) radiotracer in PET imaging.
- 1217 PET: Positron emission tomography (PET) is a tomographic imaging technique that produces an image of  
1218 the in vivo distribution of a radiotracer, typically FDG.
- 1219 PET/CT: Positron emission tomography / computed tomography (PET/CT) is a medical imaging system that  
1220 combines in a single gantry system both Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and an x-ray Computed  
1221 Tomography (CT) scanners, so that images acquired from both devices can be taken nearly-  
1222 simultaneously.
- 1223 CT: X-ray computed tomography (CT) is a medical imaging technique that utilizes X-rays to produce  
1224 tomographic images of the relative x-ray absorption, which is closely linked to tissue density.
- 1225 TOF: Time of Flight (TOF) is a PET imaging technique utilizing differential annihilation photon travel times  
1226 to more accurately localize the in vivo distribution of a radiotracer.
- 1227 UPICT: Uniform Protocols For Imaging in Clinical Trials (UPICT). A RSNA-QIBA initiative that seeks to provide  
1228 a library of annotated protocols that support clinical trials within institutions, cooperative groups, and  
1229 trials consortia. The UPICT protocols are based on consensus standards that meet a minimum set of  
1230 criteria to ensure imaging data quality.
- 1231 DICOM: Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) is a set of standards for medical images  
1232 and related information. It defines formats for medical images that can be exchanged in a manner that  
1233 preserves the data and quality necessary for clinical use.
- 1234 CRF: Case Report Form (CRF) is a paper or electronic questionnaire specifically used in clinical trial research.  
1235 The CRF is used by the sponsor of the clinical trial (or designated CRO etc.) to collect data from each  
1236 participating site. All data on each patient participating in a clinical trial are held and/or documented in  
1237 the CRF, including adverse events.
- 1238 mCi: millicuries. A non-SI unit of radioactivity, defined as  $1 \text{ mCi} = 3.7 \times 10^7$  decays per second. Clinical  
1239 FDG-PET studies inject (typically) 5 to 15 mCi of 18F-FDG.
- 1240 MBq: megabecquerel. An SI-derived unit of radioactivity defined as  $1.0 \times 10^6$  decays per second.

**Comment [ep23]:** Item #40: SUV is dimensionless, . . . additional wording added in 3.4.3 and reader reference included.

- 1241 PMD: Progressive Metabolic Disease: Any of the following:
- 1242 • An increase in the SUVmean of  $\geq 25\%$  within the tumor region defined on the baseline scan
  - 1243 • Visible increase in the extent of FDG tumor uptake 20% in the longest diameter
  - 1244 • An unequivocal new PET-avid lesion
- 1245 SMD: Stable Metabolic Disease. Either of the following:
- 1246 • An increase in tumor SUVmean  $< 25\%$  and no visible increase in the extent of the tumor uptake ( $< 20\%$
  - 1247 in the longest diameter)
  - 1248 • A decrease of  $< 25\%$  in tumor SUVmean
- 1249 PMR: Partial Metabolic Response. A reduction of  $\geq 25\%$  in tumor SUVmean
- 1250 CMR: Complete Metabolic Response. A complete resolution of FDG-PET uptake within the all tumor volume
- 1251 so that it is indistinguishable from the surrounding normal tissue
- 1252 QA: Quality Assurance. Proactive definition of the process or procedures for task performance. The
- 1253 maintenance of a desired level of quality in a service or product, esp. by means of attention to every
- 1254 stage of the process of delivery or production.
- 1255 QC: Quality Control. Specific tests performed to ensure target requirements of QA program are met.
- 1256 Typically by testing a sample of the output against the specification.
- 1257 Accreditation: Approval by an independent body or group for broad clinical usage (requires ongoing
- 1258 QA/QC) e.g. ACR, IAC, TJC.
- 1259 Qualification: Approved by an independent body or group for either general participation in clinical
- 1260 research (ACRIN-CQIE , SNM-CTN others) or for a specific clinical trial (requires ongoing QA/QC). This
- 1261 includes CROs, ACRIN, SNM-CTN, CALGB and other core laboratories.
- 1262 Compliance: Meeting the list of requirements described in this document, which are necessary to meet the
- 1263 measurement claims for this QIBA Profile.
- 1264 RECIST: Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST). A set of published rules that define when
- 1265 cancer patients improve ("respond"), stay the same ("stabilize"), or worsen ("progression") during
- 1266 treatments. Based on anatomical size changes of solid tumors. Commonly used but also controversial.
- 1267 PERCIST: PET Response Criteria for Solid Tumors. A framework proposed for using FDG-PET imaging as a
- 1268 cancer therapy response criteria for solid tumors. Proposed as a more accurate alternative to RECIST for
- 1269 several types of solid tumors.
- 1270 LBM: Lean Body Mass is calculated by subtracting body fat weight from total body weight. The Lean body
- 1271 mass (LBM) has been described as an index superior to total body weight for prescribing proper levels
- 1272 of medications and for assessing metabolic disorders.
- 1273 AC: Attenuation Correction. Attenuation is a an effect that occurs when photons emitted by the radiotracer
- 1274 inside the body are absorbed by intervening tissue. The result is that structures deep in the body are
- 1275 reconstructed as having falsely low (or even negative) tracer uptake. Contemporary PET/CT scanners
- 1276 estimate attenuation using integrated x-ray CT equipment. While attenuation-corrected images are
- 1277 generally faithful representations of radiotracer distribution, the correction process is itself susceptible
- 1278 to significant artifacts.
- 1279

1280 *Organizations*

1281 QIBA: Quantitative Imaging Biomarkers Alliance. The Quantitative Imaging Biomarkers Alliance (QIBA) was  
1282 organized by RSNA in 2007 to unite researchers, healthcare professionals and industry stakeholders in the  
1283 advancement of quantitative imaging and the use of biomarkers in clinical trials and practice.

1284 RSNA: Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). A professional medical imaging society with more than  
1285 47,000 members, including radiologists, radiation oncologists, medical physicists and allied scientists. The  
1286 RSNA hosts the world's largest annual medical meeting.

1287 SNMMI: Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (formerly called the Society of Nuclear  
1288 Medicine (SNM)). A nonprofit scientific and professional organization that promotes the science,  
1289 technology and practical application of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. SNMMI represents 18,000  
1290 nuclear and molecular imaging professionals worldwide. Members include physicians, technologists,  
1291 physicists, pharmacists, scientists, laboratory professionals and more

1292 CTN: The Clinical Trials Network (CTN) was formed by SNMMI in 2008 to facilitate the effective use of  
1293 molecular imaging biomarkers in clinical trials.

1294 AAPM: The American Association of Physicists in Medicine is a member society concerned with the topics  
1295 of medical physics, radiation oncology, imaging physics. The AAPM is a scientific, educational, and  
1296 professional organization of 8156 medical physicists.

1297 EANM: The European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) constitutes the European umbrella  
1298 organization of nuclear medicine in Europe

1299 EORTC: The European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer or EORTC is an international non-  
1300 profit organization that develops, coordinates, and stimulates cancer laboratory and clinical research in  
1301 Europe.

1302 EARL: EANM Research Ltd (EARL) was formed by EANM in 2006 to promote multicentre nuclear medicine  
1303 and research.

1304 ACR: The 36,000 members of |include radiologists, radiation oncologists, medical physicists, interventional  
1305 radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians and allied health professionals.

1306 ACRIN: The American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) is a program of the American College  
1307 of Radiology and a National Cancer Institute cooperative group. Focused on cancer-related research in  
1308 clinical trials.

1309 ECOG-ACRIN: A National Cancer Institute cooperative group formed from the 2012 merger of the Eastern  
1310 Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) and the American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN).

1311 IAC: The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) provides accreditation programs for Vascular Testing,  
1312 Echocardiography, Nuclear/PET, MRI, CT/Dental, Carotid Stenting and Vein Center.

1313 TJC: The Joint Commission (TJC) accredits and certifies health care organizations and programs in the  
1314 United States.

1315 CRO: Contract Research Organization A commercial or not-for-profit organization designated to perform a  
1316 centralized and standardized collection, analysis, and/or review of the data generated during a clinical trial.  
1317 Additional activities which may be performed by an imaging core lab include training and qualification of  
1318 imaging centers for the specific imaging required in a clinical trial, development of imaging acquisition  
1319 manuals, development of independent imaging review charters, centralized collection and archiving of

1320 images received from study sites, performing pre-specified quality control checks/tests on incoming images  
1321 and development and implementation of quality assurance processes and procedures to ensure that  
1322 images submitted are in accord with imaging time points specified in the study protocol and consistent with  
1323 the quality required to allow the protocol-specified analysis /assessments

1324 CQIE: The Centers of Quantitative Imaging Excellence (CQIE) program was developed by ACRIN in response  
1325 to a solicitation for proposals issued in December 2009 by SAIC-Frederick on behalf of the National Cancer  
1326 Institute (NCI). The primary objective of the CQIE Program is to establish a resource of 'trial ready' sites  
1327 within the NCI Cancer Centers Program that are capable of conducting clinical trials in which there is an  
1328 integral molecular and/or functional advanced imaging endpoint.

1329 CLIA: Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments: Accreditation system for establishing quality  
1330 standards for laboratory testing.

1331 USP: United States Pharmacopeial Convention establishes written and physical (reference) standards for  
1332 medicines, food ingredients, dietary supplement products and ingredients in the U.S.

1333 EMA: European Medicines Agency is a European Union agency for the evaluation of medicinal products.  
1334 Roughly parallel to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), but without FDA-style centralization.

1335 FDA: Food and Drug Administration is responsible for protecting and promoting public health in the U.S.  
1336 through the regulation and supervision of food safety, tobacco products, dietary supplements, prescription  
1337 and over-the-counter pharmaceutical medications, vaccines, biopharmaceuticals, blood transfusions,  
1338 medical devices, electromagnetic radiation emitting devices, and veterinary products.

1339 NIST: National Institute of Standards and Technology is a measurement standards laboratory which is a  
1340 non-regulatory agency of the United States Department of Commerce.

1341 NEMA: National Electrical Manufacturers Association is a forum for the development of technical standards  
1342 by electrical equipment manufacturers.

1343 MITA: The Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance is a division NEMA that develops and promotes  
1344 standards for medical imaging and radiation therapy equipment. These standards are voluntary guidelines  
1345 that establish commonly accepted methods of design, production, testing and communication for imaging  
1346 and cancer treatment products.

1347 NCRI: National Cancer Research Institute. The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) is a UK-wide  
1348 partnership between the government, charity and industry which promotes co-operation in cancer  
1349 research among the 22 member organisations for the benefit of patients, the public and the scientific  
1350 community.

1351

## 1352 **Appendix D: Model-specific Instructions and Parameters**

1353 The presence of specific product models/versions in the following tables should not be taken to imply that  
1354 those products are fully compliant with the QIBA Profile. Compliance with a Profile involves meeting a  
1355 variety of requirements of which operating by these parameters is just one. To determine if a product (and  
1356 a specific model/version of that product) is compliant, please refer to the QIBA Conformance Document for  
1357 that product.

1358 **D.1. Image Acquisition Parameters**

1359 The following technique tables list acquisition parameter values for specific models/versions that can be  
 1360 expected to produce data meeting the requirements of Section 3.6.4 ('Phantom Imaging').

1361 These technique tables may have been prepared by the submitter of this imaging protocol document, the  
 1362 clinical trial organizer, the vendor of the equipment, and/or some other source. (Consequently, a given  
 1363 model/version may appear in more than one table.) The source is listed at the top of each table.

1364 Sites using models listed here are encouraged to consider using these parameters for both simplicity and  
 1365 consistency. Sites using models not listed here may be able to devise their own acquisition parameters that  
 1366 result in data meeting the requirements of Section 3.6.4 and conform to the considerations in Section 4. In  
 1367 some cases, parameter sets may be available as an electronic file for direct implementation on the imaging  
 1368 platform.

1369 **D.2. Quality Assurance Procedures**

1370 Examples of recommend quality assurance procedures are shown for specific GE, Philips, and Siemens  
 1371 PET/CT scanners in the tables below.

1372

QC procedures and schedules for Philips Gemini TF, V3.3 and V3.4			
Device	QA Procedure	Frequency	
CT	Tube Calibration	Daily	
	Air Calibration	Daily	
	Noise. On head phantom	Daily	
	Noise and Artifacts. On body phantom	Daily	
	Contrast scale and artifacts	Monthly	
	Impulse Response	Advanced test as needed	
	Slice thickness	Advanced test as needed	
	PET	Daily PET CT	System Initialization
Baseline collection (analog offsets of all photomultiplier channels)			Daily
PMT gain calibration			Daily
Energy test and analysis			Daily
Timing test			Daily
Emission sinogram collection and analysis			Daily
AutoQC		Automated System Initialization	Daily, prescheduled to shorten daily QC
		Automated Baseline collection	Daily, prescheduled to shorten daily QC
Uniformity check		Monthly	
SUV calibration		Every 6 months, after recalibration, when SUV validation shows discrepancy	
SUV validation		Every 2 months, when PM is performed	

1373

1374

QIBA Profile Format 2.1

QA procedures and schedules for GE Discovery ST, STE, Rx and Discovery 600/700 series PET/CT systems			
Device	QA Procedure	Frequency	
Computers	System reboot	Daily or as needed	
	CT tube warm up	Daily or after 2 hours of inactivity	
CT	Air calibrations (fast cals)	Daily	
	Generator calibrations	Daily	
	CT QA phantom	Contrast Scale	Acquire scans daily
		High Contrast Spatial Resolution	Acquire scans daily
		Low Contrast Detectability	Acquire scans daily
		Noise and Uniformity	Acquire scans daily
		Slice Thickness	Acquire scans daily
		Laser Light Accuracy	Acquire scans daily
		Full system calibration	Performed after tube replacement or as PM
	PET	PET Daily Quality Assurance (DQA)	Coincidence
PET coincidence mean			Daily
PET coincidence variance			Daily
Singles			Daily
PET singles mean			Daily
PET singles variance			Daily
Deadtime			Daily
PET mean deadtime			Daily
Timing			Daily
PET timing mean			Daily
Energy		Daily	
PET energy shift		Daily	
PET singles update gain		Weekly	
Clean database		Weekly	
PET 2D normalization		Quarterly (if appropriate for the system)	
PET 2D well counter correction		Quarterly (if appropriate for the system)	
PET 3D normalization and well counter correction	Quarterly		
Establish new DQA baseline	Quarterly		
Ge-68 source pin replacement	Every 18 months		

QA procedures and schedules for Siemens Biograph 6/16 Hi-Rez, Biograph 16 Truepoint, Biograph 16 Truepoint with TrueV, PET Syngo 2010A, Biograph mCT			
Device	QA Procedure	Frequency	
Computers	Restart computers	Daily at Startup	
	Clear scheduler	Daily	
	Clear network, local, and film queues	Four times daily	
	Archive patient data	Daily	
	System cleanup/defragmentation	Weekly	
CT	CT Checkup/Calibration	Daily, after 60 minutes of full load, within 1 hour of patient scan	
	CT Quality	Water HU	Daily
		Pixel noise	Daily
Tube voltages		Daily	
PET	PET Daily QC	Daily normalization	Daily
		Computation/ verification of the PET calibration factor (ECF)	Daily
		Normalization results display and sinogram inspection	Daily
		System quality report	Daily
		Partial detector setup: generate crystal region maps/energy profiles	Weekly
Full detector setup and time alignment	Quarterly		

**Appendix E: Data fields to be recorded in the Common Data Format Mechanism**

The list below comprises meta-information (i.e. in addition to image values of kBq/ml) that is necessary for quantitatively accurate (i.e. known and minimal uncertainties) of PET SUVs. The actual format is not specified. The format can range from paper notes to electronic databases. The intent here is to list what information should be captured rather than the mechanism itself. The mechanism is currently unspecified,

1383 but ranges from paper notes, to scanned forms or electronic data records, to direct entry from the  
 1384 measurement equipment (i.e. the PET/CT scanner or auxiliary measurement devices such as the  
 1385 radionuclide calibrator) into pre-specified DICOM fields. Ideally all of the specified meta data will be  
 1386 captured by direct electronic entry to DICOM fields, after suitable modification of the DICOM format for  
 1387 PET imaging.

1388 The concept endorsed here is that the needed meta-data is identified. Through revisions of this Profile, the  
 1389 DICOM standard, and technology the meta-data is inserted into the analysis stream (Figure 3) in a more  
 1390 direct manner and technology and accepted standards evolve.

- 1391 • The needed information, where feasible, is listed in order from least frequently changing to most
- 1392 frequently changing.
- 1393 • In all cases note whether measurements are made directly or estimated. If the latter case, note the
- 1394 source of information and the date and time (e.g. if subject cannot be moved from bed to measure
- 1395 weight or height).

1396 Data fields to be recorded:

- 1397 1. Site specific
  - 1398 a. Site information (include name and/or other identifiers)
  - 1399 b. Scanner make and model
  - 1400 c. Hardware Version numbers
  - 1401 d. Software Version numbers
  - 1402 e. Confirmation that scanner used was previously qualified (or not)
- 1403 2. Protocol specific
  - 1404 a. PET
    - 1405 i. Duration per bed
    - 1406 ii. Bed overlap
    - 1407 iii. Acquisition mode (2D or 3D)
    - 1408 iv. Reconstruction method
  - 1409 b. CT technique
- 1410 3. Scanner specific QA/QC
  - 1411 a. Most recent calibration factors (scanner)
  - 1412 b. Scanner daily check values
  - 1413 c. most recent clock check
  - 1414 d. most recent scanner QA/QC
- 1415 4. Subject exam specific
  - 1416 a. Height
  - 1417 b. Weight
  - 1418 c. Fasting time assessment
  - 1419 d. Blood glucose concentration and time of sampling
  - 1420 e. Pre- and post-injection assayed activities and times of assay
  - 1421 f. Injection time
  - 1422 g. Site of injection (and assessment of infiltration)
  - 1423 h. Net injected activity (calculated including decay correction)
  - 1424 i. Uptake time

1425

1426  
1427

## Appendix F: Testing PET/CT Display and Analysis Systems with the FDG-PET/CT Digital Reference Object

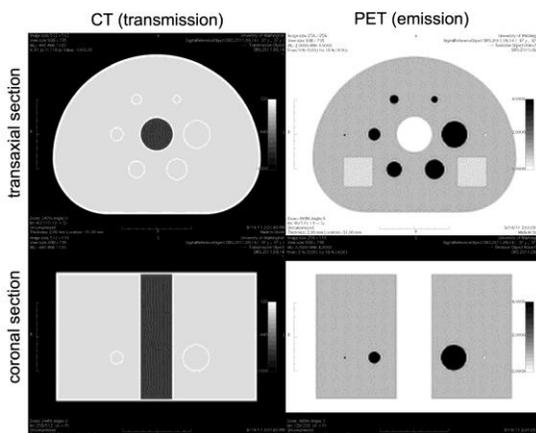
1428  
1429  
1430  
1431  
1432  
1433

The PET/CT Digital Reference Object (DRO) is a synthetically generated set of DICOM image files of known voxel values for positron emission tomography (PET) and x-ray computed tomography (CT). The PET/CT DRO is intended to test the computation of standardized uptake values (SUVs) by PET/CT display stations. It is also intended to test region of interest (ROI) calculations and alignment between the PET and CT images. This is motivated by vendor-specific variations in PET DICOM formats used for SUVs. The development of the PET/CT DRO is supported by the Quantitative Imaging Biomarker Alliance (QIBA).

1434  
1435  
1436  
1437  
1438

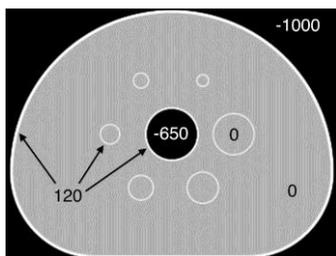
The primary goals and objectives of the PET/CT Digital Reference Object are to support the QIBA FDG-PET 'Technical Validation' efforts for Profile development. This will be done by (1) evaluation and validation of SUV calculations in PET images, (2) evaluation and validation of ROI calculations and (3) providing a common reference standard that can be adopted and modified by PET/CT scanner and display station manufacturers.

The PET and CT components of the Images of the DRO are each a set of DICOM format files, one file per image slice. Each set of files are typically grouped as a stack to form an image volume. Representative sections through the CT and PET image volumes are shown below.

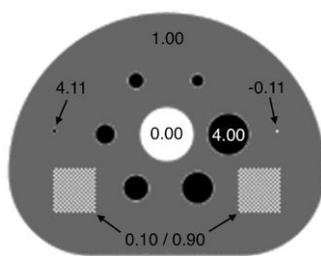


1439  
1440

The synthetic test object is based on, but is not identical to, the NEMA NU-2 PET test phantom [J Nucl Med, vol. 43 no. 10 1398-1409, 2002]. The PET object has added 'test voxels' together with 2D and 3D 'test patterns'. In each object, the thickness of the exterior shell is 3 mm, the thickness of the hot sphere walls is 1 mm, and the thickness of the lung insert wall is 2mm.



The CT DRO showing Hounsfield Units for each structure.



The PET DRO with the SUVbw values of each structure.

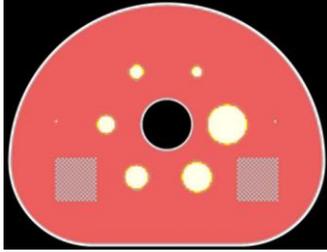
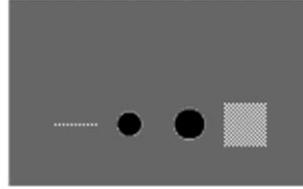


Image fusion of the CT and PET DROs showing perfect alignment



Coronal view of the PET DRO showing the 2D test pattern in slice 40 (left) as well as the 3D cubic test pattern (right)

Structure of the CT and PET DROs.

**The CT Object**

The CT object is  $512 \times 512 \times 110$  voxels, and is stored in 110 DICOM files named 000001.dcm through 000110.dcm, numerically ordered so that 000001.dcm corresponds to slice 1 in the image volume.

The CT object has a reconstruction diameter of 500 millimeters and an axial extent of 220 millimeters, resulting in a voxel size of  $500/512 \times 500/512 \times 2$  ( $0.9765625 \times 0.9765625 \times 2.0$ ) millimeters<sup>3</sup>.

The interior of the phantom body and the interiors of the hot spheres have voxels with values of 0 Hounsfield Units (HU), simulating water in the body and the interior of the hot spheres. The shell of the body, lung insert wall, and hot sphere walls have voxels set to 120 HU, simulating polymethylmethacrylate. The voxels interior to the lung insert are set to -650 HU, simulating lung attenuation material. The voxels exterior of the phantom body are set to -1000 HU, simulating air. These values are indicated in the above figure. NOTE: Partial volume effects will alter the voxel values near the borders of different regions.

**The PET Object**

The PET object consists of a  $256 \times 256 \times 110$  voxel image volume stored in 110 DICOM files named 000001.dcm through 000110.dcm, similar to the CT object described above.

The PET object has a reconstruction diameter of 500 millimeters and an axial extent of 220 millimeters, resulting in a voxel size of  $500/256 \times 500/256 \times 2$  ( $1.953125 \times 1.953125 \times 2.0$ ) millimeters<sup>3</sup>.

The voxels interior to the phantom body are set to an SUV value of 1.00. The voxels interior to the six hot spheres are set to an SUVbw value of 4.00. The voxels corresponding to the polymethylmethacrylate shell and the exterior of the phantom body and interior to the lung insert are set to an SUVbw value of 0.00. NOTE: Partial volume effects will alter the voxel values near the borders of different regions.

There are two test voxels in slice 40 of the DRO. The test voxel furthest from the largest hot sphere in slice 40 is set to an SUVbw value of 4.11. The test voxel closest to the largest hot sphere in slice 40 is set to an SUVbw value of -0.11. NOTE: There is no polymethylmethacrylate shell surrounding the test voxels in the PET object, and no partial volume effects surrounding the test voxels.

There are two test patterns in the PET DRO, a square (2D) checkerboard pattern in slice 40, and a cubic (3D) checkerboard pattern centered in slice 40. The 3D cubic test pattern appears closest to the largest hot

1470 sphere in an axial view of slice 40.

1471 Each test pattern consists of a checkerboard of voxels with alternating SUVbw values of 0.10 and 0.90 Both  
1472 the 2D square and 3D cubic test patterns have edge measurements of 40 mm. The SUVbw values of each  
1473 region of the PET DRO are shown in the above figure.

1474 Users of the DRO are asked to download the package, import the PET and CT objects into their viewing  
1475 software, perform region of interest (ROI) analyses, and submit the results back to this website.

1476

1477 **Procedure**

1478 Users of the Digital Reference Object are requested to:

- 1479 1. Download the DRO (or import from CD) and the user report form.
- 1480 2. Verify the DRO files are present.
- 1481 3. Import the DRO into the viewing software.
- 1482 4. Perform ROI analysis of the DRO.
- 1483 5. Submit the completed report and store a copy locally.

1484

**Digital Reference Object Analysis Sheet - Version 10/31/2011**

You may record your answers directly on this form or by filling out the accompanying Excel spreadsheet. The numbers on each line indicate the corresponding rows and columns of the Excel spreadsheet.

**1 Basic Information**

Fill out the basic information for the test. Include a brief description of the workstation and its hardware, the software being tested, and the makes and models of the primary scanners that supply the images viewed on the workstation used for this test.

ROW	Item	Value
6	Name of Institution	
7	Name of person testing software	
8	Email or Phone contact	
9	Date of test	
10	Workstation used for test (Serial #)	
11	Description of hardware (Hardware Version)	
12	Make and model of monitor	
13	Software Manufacturer	
14	Name of software being tested	
15	Version of software	
16	Makes and models of primary scanners	

Load the DRO into your viewing software. Using an axial view, advance to **slice 40**, which contains the two test voxels and both test patterns as shown in Figure 1. Record the type of SUV that you are measuring (or 'Unknown') and the number of decimal places that the software reports for the SUV value. Record the type of ROI that your software uses (2D or 3D). Record the ROI measurement units and indicate if it is a diameter, an area, a volume, etc..

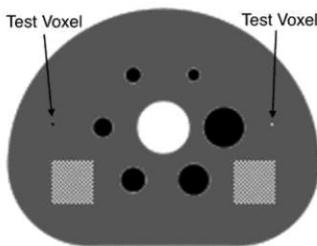


Figure 1: You should see both the hot and cold test voxels and the two square test patterns in slice 40.

ROW	Item	Value
20	SUV Type (BW, LBM, BSA)	
21	Number of decimal places	
22	ROI Type (2D, 3D)	
23	Recording ROI Area or Diameter?	

## 2 ROI Analysis of the DRO

For each of the following six ROIs (shown in Figure 2), record the maximum, minimum, mean, standard deviation for the voxel SUV values. Also record either the diameter or area of each ROI (if recording area, record the volume for ROI 6).

- (1) Draw a circular ROI with an area of 490 mm<sup>2</sup> (diameter=25 mm), concentric with the smallest hot sphere.
- (2) Draw a circular ROI with an area of 490 mm<sup>2</sup> (diameter 25 mm), concentric with largest hot sphere.
- (3) Draw a circular ROI with an area of 490 mm<sup>2</sup> (diameter 25 mm), concentric with the hot test voxel.
- (4) Draw a circular ROI with an area of 490 mm<sup>2</sup> (diameter 25 mm), concentric with the cold test voxel.
- (5) Draw a circular ROI with an area of 490 mm<sup>2</sup> (diameter 25 mm), centered within the single plane test pattern nearest the hot test voxel.
- (6) Draw a spherical (3D) ROI with a volume of 2,600 mm<sup>3</sup> (diameter 25 mm), centered within the 3D block test pattern nearest the cold test voxel.

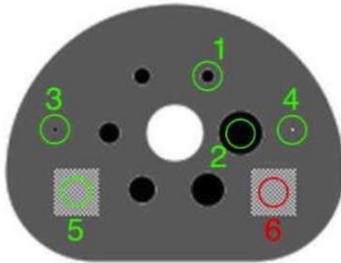


Figure 2: ROIs for the DRO analysis. The cross-section of the sphere in the 3D test pattern (on the right) is shown in red.

COL:		C	D	E	F	G
ROW	ROI	Max	Min	Mean	STD	Diam or Area
28	ROI 1					
29	ROI 2					
30	ROI 3					
31	ROI 4					
32	ROI 5					
33	ROI 6					

## 1491 Appendix G: Vendor-neutral pseudo-codes for SUV calculation

### 1492 G.1 Generic version

1493 This appendix contains the consensus opinion on the generic form of SUV calculation from PET DICOM  
 1494 images. A generic pseudo-~~case-code~~ code is used with "/" signifying the beginning of a comment field to the  
 1495 end of the line. This version assumes: units are BQML, no private data elements required, series time is OK.  
 1496 Updated as of September 28, 2012. The most up to date version is maintained on the QIBA FDG-PET Wiki  
 1497 page ([http://qibawiki.rsna.org/index.php?title=Standardized\\_Uptake\\_Value\\_SUV](http://qibawiki.rsna.org/index.php?title=Standardized_Uptake_Value_SUV)).

1498 // SUV cannot be calculated if any of the specified DICOM attributes are missing or empty or zero

1499 if Corrected Image (0x0028,0x0051) contains ATTN and DECAY and Decay Correction (0x0054,0x1102) is START {

1500 if Units (0x0054,0x1001) are BQML {

1501 half life = Radionuclide Half Life (0x0018,0x1075) in Radiopharmaceutical Information Sequence (0x0054,0x0016) // seconds

1502 if Series Date (0x0008,0x0021) and Time (0x0008,0x0031) are not after Acquisition Date (0x0008,0x0022) and Time (0x0008,0x0032) {

1503 scan Date and Time = Series Date and Time

1504 start Time = Radiopharmaceutical Start Time (0x0018,0x1072) in Radiopharmaceutical Information Sequence (0x0054,0x0016)

## QIBA Profile Format 2.1

```
1505 // start Date is not explicit ... assume same as Series Date; but consider spanning midnight
1506 decay Time = scan Time – start Time // seconds
1507 // Radionuclide Total Dose is NOT corrected for residual dose in syringe, which is ignored here ...
1508 injected Dose = Radionuclide Total Dose (0x0018,0x1074) in Radiopharmaceutical Information Sequence (0x0054,0x0016) // Bq
1509 decayed Dose = injected Dose * pow (2, -decay Time / half life)
1510 weight = Patient's Weight (0x0010,0x1030) // in kg
1511 SUVbwScaleFactor = (weight * 1000 / decayed Dose)
1512 // Rescale Intercept is required to be 0 for PET, but use it just in case
1513 // Rescale slope may vary per slice (GE), and cannot be assumed to be constant for the entire volume
1514 SUVbw = (stored pixel value in Pixel Data (0x7FE0,0x0010) + Rescale Intercept (0x0028,0x1052)) * Rescale Slope (0x0028,0x1053)
1515 * SUVbwScaleFactor // g/ml
1516 }
1517 }
1518 }
```

1519

### 1520 G.2 Robust version

1521 This appendix contains the consensus opinion on the most robust form of SUV calculation from PET DICOM  
1522 images. Updated as of September 28, 2012. The most up to date version is maintained on the QIBA FDG-  
1523 PET Wiki page ([http://qibawiki.rsna.org/index.php?title=Standardized\\_Uptake\\_Value\\_SUV](http://qibawiki.rsna.org/index.php?title=Standardized_Uptake_Value_SUV)).

1524

```
1525 // SUV cannot be calculated if any of the specified DICOM attributes are missing or empty or zero
1526 if Corrected Image (0x0028,0x0051) contains ATTN and DECATY and Decay Correction (0x0054,0x1102) is START {
1527     if Units (0x0054,0x1001) are BQML {
1528         half life = Radionuclide Half Life (0x0018,0x1075) in Radiopharmaceutical Information Sequence (0x0054,0x0016) // seconds
1529         if Series Date (0x0008,0x0021) and Time (0x0008,0x0031) are not after Acquisition Date (0x0008,0x0022) and Time (0x0008,0x0032) {
1530             scan Date and Time = Series Date and Time
1531         }
1532         else { // may be post-processed series in which Series Date and Time are date of series creation unrelated to acquisition
1533             if GE private scan Date and Time (0x0009,0x100d,"GEMS_PETD_01") present {
1534                 scan Date and Time = GE private scan Date and Time (0x0009,0x100d,"GEMS_PETD_01")
1535             }
1536             else {
1537                 // else may be Siemens series with altered Series Date and Time
1538                 // either check earliest of all images in series (for all bed positions) (wrong for case of PETsyngo 3.x multi-injection)
1539                 scan Date and Time = earliest Acquisition Date (0x0008,0x0022) and Time (0x0008,0x0032) in all images of series
1540                 or
1541                 // back compute from center (average count rate ) of time window for bed position (frame) in series (reliable in all
1542                 cases)
1543                 // Acquisition Date (0x0008,0x0022) and Time (0x0008,0x0032) are the start of the bed position (frame)
1544                 // Frame Reference Time (0x0054,0x1300) is the offset (ms) from the scan Date and Time we want to the average
1545                 count rate time
1546                 if (Frame Reference Time (0x0054,0x1300) > 0 && Actual Frame Duration (0018,1242) > 0) {
1547                     frame duration = Actual Frame Duration (0018,1242) / 1000 // DICOM is in ms; want seconds
```

## QIBA Profile Format 2.1

```
1548         decay constant = ln(2) / half life
1549         decay during frame = decay constant * frame duration
1550         average count rate time within frame = 1/decay constant * ln(decay during frame / (1 - exp(-decay during
1551         frame)))
1552         scan Date and Time = Acquisition Date (0x0008,0x0022) and Time (0x0008,0x0032)
1553         - Frame Reference Time (0x0054,0x1300) /1000 + average count rate time within frame
1554     }
1555 }
1556 }
1557 start Time = Radiopharmaceutical Start Time (0x0018,0x1072) in Radiopharmaceutical Information Sequence (0x0054,0x0016)
1558 // start Date is not explicit ... assume same as Series Date; but consider spanning midnight
1559 decay Time = scan Time - start Time // seconds
1560 // Radionuclide Total Dose is NOT corrected for residual dose in syringe, which is ignored here ...
1561 injected Dose = Radionuclide Total Dose (0x0018,0x1074) in Radiopharmaceutical Information Sequence (0x0054,0x0016) // Bq
1562 decayed Dose = injected Dose * pow (2, -decay Time / half life)
1563 weight = Patient's Weight (0x0010,0x1030) // in kg
1564 SUVbwScaleFactor = (weight * 1000 / decayed Dose)
1565 }
1566 else if Units (0x0054,0x1001) are CNTS {
1567     SUVbwScaleFactor = Philips private scale factor (0x7053,0x1000, " Philips PET Private Group")
1568     // if (0x7053,0x1000) not present, but (0x7053,0x1009) is present, then (0x7053,0x1009) * Rescale Slope
1569     // scales pixels to Bq/ml, and proceed as if Units are BQML
1570 }
1571 else if Units (0x0054,0x1001) are GML {
1572     SUVbwScaleFactor = 1.0 // assumes that GML indicates SUVbw instead of SUVlbm
1573 }
1574 }
1575 // Rescale Intercept is required to be 0 for PET, but use it just in case
1576 // Rescale slope may vary per slice (GE), and cannot be assumed to be constant for the entire volume
1577 SUVbw = (stored pixel value in Pixel Data (0x7FE0,0x0010) + Rescale Intercept (0x0028,0x1052)) * Rescale Slope (0x0028,0x1053) * SUVbwScaleFactor // g/ml
1578
```

**Comment [ep24]:** Comment 67: Check need to insert suv insertion directly - red

## 1579 Appendix H: Consensus formula for computing lean-body-mass normalization 1580 for SUVs

1581 It is important that the PET community is consistent in its computation of  $SUV_{LBM}$ , particularly in light of the  
1582 recent article by Wahl et al. (1) that proposes using  $SUV_{LBM}$  as part of the PERCIST criteria to monitor  
1583 treatment response.

1584 Two different formulas for estimating male Lean Body Mass-normalized SUV ( $SUV_{LBM}$ ) are currently being  
1585 used in the PET community. The two variations of the formula for estimating LBM for males are as follows:

$$1586 \quad LBM(\text{male}) = (1.10 \times \text{Weight}) - 128 \times (\text{Weight} / \text{Height})^2 \quad [1]$$

$$1587 \quad LBM(\text{male}) = (1.10 \times \text{Weight}) - 120 \times (\text{Weight} / \text{Height})^2 \quad [2]$$

1588 Where the units for weight are kg, and the units for height are cm. Only one formula is being used for the  
1589 calculation of female LBM (2,3):

$$1590 \quad \text{LBM(female)} = (1.07 \times \text{Weight}) - 148 \times (\text{Weight} / \text{Height})^2 \quad [3]$$

1591 Both versions for estimating male lean body mass (equation 1 from Hallynck et al. (2) and equation 2 from  
1592 Morgan and Bray (3)) are based on the original work of James (4), which in turn were derived from a fit of  
1593 (weight/height<sup>2</sup>) to percentage body fat as measured by skin fold measurements. Equation 1 is the version  
1594 widely used by the pharmacology community and can be considered the 'correct' version (5-7).

1595 The second version of the equation [2] can be traced back to an article by Morgan and Bray (3), in which  
1596 the formula presented by Hallynck et al. (2) is likely misquoted, since the article (2) is referenced elsewhere  
1597 in Morgan and Bray (3) without discussion of the difference in formulas where 120 was substituted for 128  
1598 as a coefficient. The first incorporation of this formula for computing LBM into SUV calculations was  
1599 described in Sugawara et al (8), which cites the Morgan and Bray paper (3). It is this version of the formula  
1600 for males, with 120 as the coefficient, that has been sometimes quoted in the PET literature. Sugawara et al  
1601 (8) used only data for female patients, which cites the formula for estimating female LBM by Morgan and  
1602 Bray (3), which in turn matches the Hallynck et al. (2) paper.

1603 Although the impact of this difference in coefficient is relatively minor for patients with a normal body mass  
1604 index (BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>) = (weight/height<sup>2</sup>), it does vary as a function of the patient's weight / height ratio. For  
1605 example, for a patient of height 180 cm and weight 75 kg (BMI: 23) the value of SUV<sub>LBM</sub> as computed by the  
1606 two formula would differ by less than 1.5 % for regions with an SUV<sub>LBM</sub> of ~1. However, for a male patient  
1607 of the same height but weighing 150 kg (BMI: 46), the difference in SUV<sub>LBM</sub> for the same regions would be  
1608 ~7 %.

1609 In comparing equations [1] and [2], it is recommended that equation [1] be used in preference to equation  
1610 [2]. However, although the James (2) is the most commonly used data source for equations estimating  
1611 LBM, it is well known that it is incorrect for extreme BMI values (5-7). Janmahasatian et. al (5) have  
1612 proposed alternative equations for LBM:

$$1613 \quad \text{LBM(male)} \text{ (kg)} = \frac{9270 \times \text{Weight}}{6680 + (216 \times \text{BMI})} \quad [4]$$

$$1614 \quad \text{LBM(female)} \text{ (kg)} = \frac{9270 \times \text{Weight}}{8780 + (244 \times \text{BMI})} \quad [5]$$

1615 These revised formulas for LBM have achieved some acceptance in the pharmacology community (6,7), and  
1616 future versions of this Profile may recommend equations [4] and [5] instead of equations [1] and [3]. There  
1617 are also continuing efforts to come up with more accurate methods for estimating LBM, through direct  
1618 measurement on a per-patient basis using CT (9). However, the different methods providing estimates of  
1619 LBM typically have unknown levels of bias and variance. Thus consistency and standardization are likely to  
1620 yield larger improvements in study power for clinical trials, when compared to potential improvements in  
1621 accuracy of LBM estimation.

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