Team-working in Radiology: What is possible?

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Why advanced practice radiography?

- Sustained and significant increases in radiology activity\(^1\)
- Chronic shortage of consultant radiologists\(^2\)
- Escalating costs
- Radiographers fundamental to the diagnostic pathway

1 – National Diagnostic Imaging Dataset 2016; 2 – Royal College of Radiologists 2014;
Aim & Objectives

- Expand contribution of radiographer advanced practice
- Meet anticipated activity increased
- Maintain/improve reporting times
Methodology

- Continuous service evaluation at single radiology department in the UK
- Key metrics used previously\(^1\)
  - Departmental activity
  - Waiting times
  - Reporting times

Woznitz et al. Radiography 2014:
Waiting times

Waiting Time (weeks)

- CT
- MRI
- US

- 2010-11
- 2011-12
- 2012-13
- 2013-14
- 2014-15
- 2015-16
Radiology Reporting Times

![Graph showing reporting times for XR, CT, and MRI from 2010-11 to 2015-16]
Contribution of Advanced Practitioners

2013-14: 3 Consultant Radiologists
2014-15: 4.5 Consultant Radiologists
2015-16: 6 Consultant Radiologists
Implications for practice

High resource settings
- increasing demands
- escalating costs
- restrained budgets

Low resource settings
- radiographer/sonographer in all departments
- limited radiologist cover
- effective use of resources
- improved patient & clinician service
Key Learning Points

- Team-based approach essential
- Radiographer reporting provides a significant contribution
- Effective, efficient, safe
- Essential component of patient focused service
Questions?

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