

# Scottish Clinical Imaging Network

## Annual Report

2022/23

**Network Lead Clinician:** Dr Karen Gray  
**Network Imaging Manager:** Anne-Marie Ross  
**Programme Manager:** Camilla Young  
**Programme Support Officer:** Bina Collins

## Introduction

Managed Diagnostic Networks are defined as co-ordinated groups of health professionals that support diagnostic services to continuously improve service delivery in order to ensure equitable provision of high quality, clinically effective services. Diagnostics, whether delivered in primary, community or secondary care, have an important role to play in achieving NHS Scotland quality ambitions by contributing to early, accurate and cost effective diagnosis, monitoring and self-management.

The role of the Scottish Clinical Imaging Network (SCIN) is to improve imaging services by developing and delivering a workplan, which will:

- Steer modernisation including service change and redesign
- Improve quality
- Ensure provision of an effective imaging service
- Anticipate and respond to user needs and future requirements
- Enable services to meet national guidelines

## Current Position

In June 2022 SCIN welcomed Dr Karen Gray as the new Lead Clinician.

The network achieved 14/16 of its objectives in 2022/23. Due to clinical pressures the PET-CT PSMA Clinical Indications document was not updated as planned in Nov 2022. This will be carried forward to 2023/24. It was noted that there was no clinical risk associated with this. The other project was to update the online Scottish Imaging Self Assessment Tool (SiSAT). Work had been carried out in 2021/22 to update the text included within SiSAT and subsequent development of the online tool had been delayed due to capacity within the Information Management Team (IMS). It was agreed in 2022 that SCIN would instead focus on encouraging use of the newly published Quality Standards in Imaging (QSI).

## Highlights

### **Developing Workforce Sustainability: Radiology Assistant Practitioner**

SCIN is committed to the ongoing development of the imaging workforce and have been actively engaged with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR), to support the development of the Assistant Practitioner (AP) in Radiology departments. Further establishment of the AP role would be a significant step forward in developing a sustainable workforce model for Radiology in Scotland.

## **SCIN Network**

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There are four levels of clinical practice: consultant practitioner, advanced practitioner, practitioner and assistant practitioner, together with a general support workforce.

Developing and establishing the scope of practice and role of the AP within Radiology should be seen as an adjunct to the development of practitioners to advanced and consultant roles. A clear career progression strategy for all radiology staff would assist to meet both current demands and recovery as well as providing opportunities to help with retention and recruitment of staff.

To enable the development of AP Scope of Practice, additional education, training and governance will be required. During 2022/23 the SCIN Imaging Manager worked closely with NES to develop work-based modules informed by a Service/ Learning Needs Analysis. The learning needs analysis was completed in March 2022, analysed over summer 2022 and it is recommended that this exercise is repeated on a bi annual basis.

Supporting documents were completed by NES and the network Imaging Manager over the last two years via NES Expressions of Interest. Input and scrutiny also came from SRTP (Scottish Radiology Transformation Programme) and SoR Professional Officer:

Documents produced included:

- Assistant Practitioner Scope of Practice PACK (for use by Managers)
- Generic Job Description Template
- Exploring AP work in Theatre within a National Treatment Centre

Work based modules for

- AP using DEXA
- AP Plain Film Image Appraisal
- AP performing AP CXR's

## **Reporting Radiographer Framework**

In October 2022 the network established a short life working group (SLWG) to update the National Reporting Radiographers framework. The national framework for the reporting radiographer was originally produced in 2017 with the aim to standardise and maximise the role of the reporting radiographer across NHS Scotland. To achieve this, a standardised job description and role specification were both agreed. The role specification included agreed educational pathways and continuing CPD, an agreed minimum scope of practice and agreed governance and supervision requirements. The SLWG undertook to review and update the national framework based on current evidence and standards. The framework has been extensively utilised and referenced in national workforce planning and therefore it is essential that it is relevant to the current and future Advanced Practitioner Reporting Radiographer workforce.

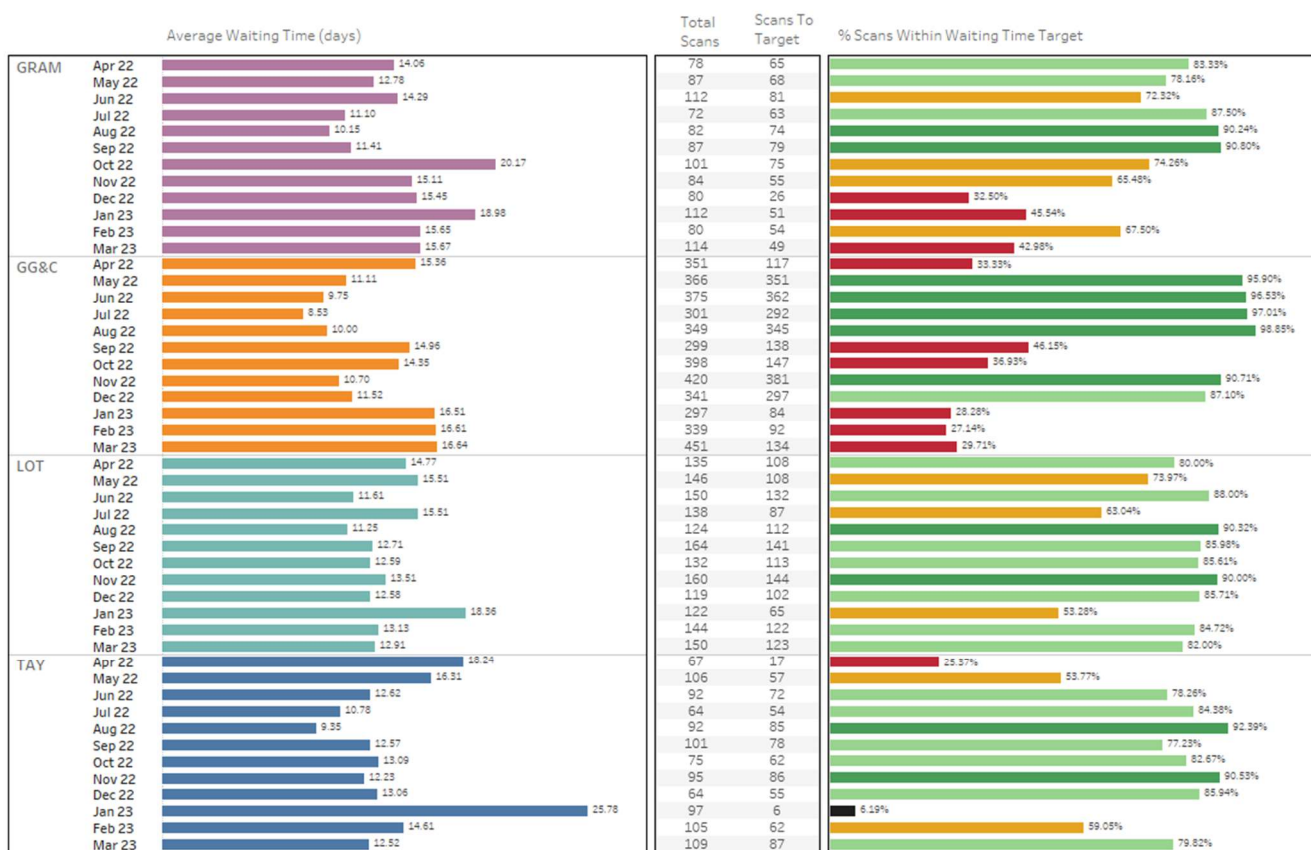
The updated framework is due to be finalised in June 2023.

## **Service Improvement**

## Waiting Times

This year marked further successful collaboration between SCIN's network members and the Information Management Service (IMS), in relation to quality and performance benchmarking. Key Performance Indicators for PET-CT have been agreed and data is collected on a monthly basis and published quarterly on the SCIN website <https://www.scin.scot.nhs.uk/scin-work/scin-pet-ct/scin-pet-ct-waiting-reporting-times/>. This data is reviewed at the PET-CT Working Group meetings where variation in quality can now be readily identified. The data is also shared with the Scottish Government's Cancer Recovery Board to help inform its monitoring and direction of the remobilisation of cancer services. The current target waiting time in Scotland is 14 days from referral to scan with a 3-day target from scan to report. This target is often breached due to issues with scanning capacity and radiopharmaceutical supply issues.

### Average Waiting Times & Monthly Scans Meeting 14 Day Target from Request to Scan



Average waiting time and the 14 day target from request to scan are only calculated and applied to 'Standard' scans (Planned, Other, PSMA & Ga68 scans are not included)

## Imaging Insights report

In October 2022 SCIN published the first Scotland Imaging Insights report. The report provided an insight into the activity within individual Health Boards, set in the context of the activity of other NHS Health Boards. Some data was also displayed against the Public Health Scotland (PHS) waiting times. The report also demonstrated the type of data now available with examples of how this can be presented.

**Monthly Requests and Baseline Comparison**

**Monthly Requests and Baseline Comparison 1**

Data from the PHS National Radiology Information & Intelligence Platform (NRIP) - extracted 30/08/2022.

Please note: a data quality assurance exercise by PHS is currently in progress therefore caution is recommended when drawing conclusions from the data.



The chart presented is based on developmental data from Public Health Scotland’s National Radiology Information & Intelligence Platform (NRIP), extracted 30/08/2022. PHS receive monthly data submissions for interventional and diagnostic exams/procedures from Health Board Radiology Information Systems (RIS). While great progress has been made to establish regular data flows from every Health Board, the national data is not yet considered to be robust. For example, across Scotland there are differing local data quality issues, recording practices and ways in which services are delivered etc. PHS continue to develop analysis of the national data and hold regular meetings with Health Boards to ensure data quality and consistency continue to improve.

**Quality Standard for Imaging (QSI)**

The network has continued to promote and encourage the adoption of the Quality Standards for Imaging across Scotland. In January 2022 the network was successful in applying to National Education Scotland (NES) for funding to support a 12-week pilot project in NHS Grampian. The project aimed to review the standards and assess what was in place within NHS Grampian and what work would be required to take the standards forward. The pilot identified a number of areas where robust evidence was available: patient information; staff competency/training records; IRMER protocols/procedures; audit and research. A number of areas were also identified for improvement: review and standardise departmental documentation and evidence how these are reviewed; business continuity, service improvement and development plans. The next steps are for this learning to be shared across Scotland and to encourage more Health Boards to implement

the standards. The network Imaging Manager has rolling meetings with the SoR professional officer and Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) QSI Lead to maintain momentum.

## **Looking forward 2023/24**

The role of the Scottish Imaging Network (SCIN) is to improve imaging services by

- steering modernisation, including service change and redesign
- improving quality
- ensuring provision of an effective imaging service that anticipates and responds to user needs, future requirements and national guidelines.

SCIN is looking forward to an exciting year ahead with a robust and challenging workplan.

The introduction of a PET-CT PSMA service in Scotland will be a huge benefit to patients, with capacity and demand closely monitored within the PET-CT working group. 15 Clinical Indications for PET-CT are due to be updated in 2023/24.

The network will look to update the National Framework for Advanced Practice in Breast Care Imaging (symptomatic).

SCIN will continue to engage with NES, Royal College of Radiologists, Society and College of Radiographers, and the Scottish Government to develop a sustainable Imaging workforce.

## **Finance**

There was no spend for the year 2022/23

## **Risks & Issues**

Clinical pressures mean that there is an ongoing risk that the community may not have time to support the business plan for 2023/24. Progress against the business plan will be actively monitored throughout the year to assess if this becomes an issue.

The current Imaging Managers tenure comes to an end in August 2023 and there is a risk to the delivery of the network workplan if a new Imaging Manager is not appointed.