

## Minutes : Ultrasound Special Interest Group (SCIN)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018, Meeting Room 5, Learning and Education Centre, Forth Valley Royal Hospital

Present: Morag Stout (GGC), Maria Murray (SCOR), Gill Rooney (Fife), Claire Telfer (GJNH), Catherine Brady (Lanarkshire), Margaret Taylor (Tayside). On VC : Heather Scott (Orkney), Sharron Humphries (Highland), Steven Wilson (Western Isles).

Apologies : Carine Stirling (GGC), John Bayliss (Grampian), Karen Thomson (A&A), Helen Ormiston (Borders), Lucy Wilson (Shetland), Linda Handley (D&G), Suzanne McHattie (Lothian), Dr Fiona Hawke, SCIN.

Topic	Challenge	Discussion	Responsibility	Completion Date
Purpose of the Group	Consensus	<p>MM noted that she was from a NES background and now represented SCOR. Discussion around advanced practice models and variation across boards. MM thought it would be useful if the group linked in with issues/ plans ongoing within Scottish Government/ Education/ SCIN/ SRTP.</p> <p>It was thought it would be a platform to raise issues. An example of this was given as a need to communicate rationale for screening livers post eye melanomas across all boards.</p> <p>Training models and infrastructure to fund across boards was discussed. SH noted Highland had recently secured monies for a training post via waiting times and detecting cancer early.</p> <p>MT discussed options around part time sonographers who may have a role in CT or MR too.</p> <p>Training option discussed below.</p>	MS	Ongoing
SRTP update		MS outlined that SRTP were looking at sonographer need across Scotland. They plan to look at current shortfall with a view to preparing a case for government to	MS	Ongoing

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		<p>address the need to train more staff. MS noted that there also needed to be work around the need for additional equipment and different working patterns</p>		
Training options		<p>GR noted that Fife currently has a high vacancy rate and have historically trained locally. They have recently taken on a vascular trained sonographer.</p> <p>Discussion around whether to train our own staff or take external candidates due to radiographer shortages.</p> <p>Discussion around different educational models. MM and MS outlined that undergraduate course will allow sonographers to qualify at band 5. MM also noted this as an issue as “sonographer” is not a protected title (despite there being a public voluntary register which includes some with sports science / AAA/ vascular backgrounds). MM noted this band 5/6 model potentially has issues with autonomy/responsibility/governance.</p> <p>Advance practice accreditation was discussed and MM stated there had been little uptake. MS said reluctance was due to having to reapply every 2 years. MM stated this was being increased to 4/5 years.</p> <p>Overseas sonographers – some Canadian locums who are scanning to an excellent standard, despite their qualifications being lesser than SQA.</p>	All	

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		<p>STRP advocate cross – site training. However, there is red tape involved. MM to investigate what can be put in place to facilitate this? Honorary contracts. MS and GR note ENT and MSK training an issue. It would be advantageous to share best practice and train across boards if required.</p> <p>Concerned there is often no 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion pathway due to PACs. Apparently a useful solution in Aberdeen. MM to investigate.</p> <p>MS stated that in regards to autonomy / responsibility, Band 7 should be the least sonographers in Scotland are paid. She also noted that those with a radiography background are probably best placed to specialise in Gen Med US. She thought the undergraduate degree not a route to adopt in Scotland at present. Discussed the option of creating apprenticeships for band 6 radiographers who want to train in US. MM noted there were issues with who provides academic training in apprenticeships and this may have to be delivered by local sites. MM/MS to investigate this option.</p>		
Membership and Terms of Reference		<p>Membership agreed. Kirsten McKay (Wick) may alternate with SH.</p> <p>CB noted that Lanarkshire are suggesting rotational attendance. MS stated that it would be better to have membership for at least a 2 year period for continuity.</p> <p>Margaret Taylor agreed to vice chair.</p> <p>Reporting to SCIN</p> <p>Quarterly meetings</p> <p>Distribution of minutes : members, SCIN,</p>	MS	

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		STRP, Scottish Council SCOR Suggested Agenda : 1. Specialist education 2. Training models 3. Standardising protocols/ sharing good practice 4. Demand management 5. Parity of workloads 6. Staff wellbeing – recruitment/retention 7. Succession planning		
AOCB		Ultrasound awareness month – look at SCOR website Radiology training – is there a national forum? MM to investigate	All MM	

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Venue TBC**