

VISITS BY PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS TO CLINICAL IMAGING AND RADIOTHERAPY & ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENTS

Managers in Clinical Imaging and Radiotherapy and Oncology Departments are occasionally requested to accommodate prospective radiography students for a visit. Many departments have plans in place and this guidance is issued to offer suggestions to those who may be unsure as to what they should be providing.

Managers in Clinical Imaging and Radiotherapy and Oncology Departments are reminded to check for any advice and guidance which may be given by their Trust (or equivalent)

Wherever possible the prospective student should be assigned to a supervising radiographer for the whole visit, but where this is not feasible at least there should be efforts to minimise the number of staff involved and ensure that any handovers are adequate.

Careers information should be made available, a careers pack is available from Professional Support at SCoR and local Universities which provide radiography education would also have literature available.

SCoR recommends that service managers develop a brief written guide for the prospective student which includes issues such as confidentiality and health and safety as well as information about what they are likely to see during the day. Contents of the guide could include:

- General layout of department and brief explanation of range of imaging/treatment procedures undertaken.
- What day will include and how it will depend on workload, equipment servicing etc
- Domestic matters including arrangements for taking breaks, where to get food.
- Confidentiality; why it is so important. Managers are advised to use confidentiality statements issued by their Trust (or equivalent)
- Radiation Protection; why it is so important and practical issues
Prospective students are not part of a formal process of training or in employment and therefore under the provisions of Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 may be considered to be "other persons". Managers are advised to consider local rules and the advice of the Radiation Protection Adviser.

A short quiz may be a useful way to engage with the student and provide a focus for discussion, for an example, see "Work experience pack for students" on sharing resource section at http://www.sor.org/public/sharing_practice/student_induction.htm

Reference: Guidance on the Provision of Work Experience for School Students, CoR June 2004 available as pdf download from members section of www.sor.org or contact Christina Freeman christinaf@sor.org

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