

DXA Competency Assessment and Documentation

Appropriately trained and entitled Operators may work without direct professional supervision in the areas specified on the sign-off sheet following an assessment by a competent and senior member of the DXA team. The lead DXA Radiographer must approve all competencies.

Competency will be assessed by:

Evidence of previous knowledge, training and experience
Professional Registration/ Qualification (ROS Certificate)
In-house training
External accredited training (where available)

Scanning Radiographer or Assistant Practitioner (Operator) – General Requirements

Bone densitometry Operators must:

- be either a qualified diagnostic Radiographer or a suitably trained Assistant Practitioner with an underpinning qualification that provides a sound understanding of the principles of radiographic imaging, including radiographic anatomy.(e.g. Foundation degree in diagnostic radiography)
- achieve required scanning standards and maintain a high degree of accuracy in positioning.
- remain sensitive to the patient's physical and emotional needs through good communication, patient assessment, patient monitoring, and patient care skills.
- use independent, professional, and ethical judgment, along with critical thinking, within the boundaries of their role. (Assistant practitioners must always have access to a DXA-trained and competent radiographer for advice and guidance on issues outside of their scope of practice. Radiographers will work within their own supervisory framework.)
- engage in continuing education to enhance patient care, public education, knowledge, and technical competence.
- Report all issues, equipment concerns, incidents, or near misses according to departmental requirements
- have satisfactorily undertaken and achieved the requirements of the Precision study to allow them to perform follow-up DXA scans [delete / add as supplement to initial scanning competences]

The Society of Radiographers provides this document as a useful example to support service development. Users should verify and update the content to align with regulatory requirements and adhere to relevant national and local guidance. March 2025

Competency to work without direct supervision to perform DXA scans.

- Principles of DXA technology
- Background knowledge of Osteoporosis
- Indications/Contra-indications for Bone Densitometry
- Understanding of Local IR(ME)R procedures & protocols
- Understanding of local IRR requirements and local rules
- Trained and competent in use of scanning and computer equipment and software systems
- Understanding of Bone Density measurements -BMD values, reference data, T-scores, Z-scores and WHO definitions
- Competent in performing QC/QA, verifying quality assurance results and comparing quality assurance results to accepted values
- Positioning and immobilising patients to best demonstrate anatomic areas of interest to a high degree of accuracy, respecting patient ability and comfort
- Centring the scan for correct anatomical areas to a high degree of accuracy
- Perform bone densitometry scans
- Sound knowledge of on-screen anatomy
- Assess and document technical difficulties with patient ability, anatomy, previous surgery and fractures
- Competent in archiving and record completion
- Completed the precision study and achieved the required LSC / SD results for accuracy [delete/ add as appropriate]

Name	
Employer / Department	
Profession	
HCPC Registration Number	

Competency		Signed	Date	Title	Signed by candidate	Date
	Competency to work without direct supervision to perform scans.			Lead DXA Radiographer		