



Amy Barnes

Consultant Radiographer (Head & neck Imaging)

University Hospitals of Leicester

Duties

- H&N Ultrasound lists all referral types
- Performing US guided FNA & CB
- Administering Lidocaine 1%
- Perform US/biopsy in ENT 'One stop' clinic
- Perform FNA in Rapid On Site Evaluation clinic
- Review & interpret biochemistry / bloods liaise with clinical team regarding anticoagulation
- Vetting requests US/MRI/CT
- Teaching/mentoring sonographers / Radiology Trainees
- Supervised H&N CT/MRI reporting
- Requesting / suggesting further imaging / MDT review
- Communicate results directly to patients & referring clinicians
- Practical assessment / sign off

Setting up the role

What was the need for the role?

- Capacity and demand imbalance for H&N ultrasound imaging

Was it an established opportunity?

- No, before I stepped into this role there were 2 consultant radiologists managing the demand,

Did you apply for the role?

- Yes, through a statement of interest

Were you the 1st in your department and develop the role

- Yes.

Responsibilities

- Managing H&N US department
- Attending thyroid / H&N MDT (core member of thyroid MDT)
- Non-Medical Referrer
- Presenting Radiology cases to the Thyroid MDT
- Advice & guidance / reviewing CS scans recommending +/- Biopsy suitability
- Managing T1 oral cavity US audit
- Discharging GP 2WW patients
- Implement and maintain service improvement pathways
- Associate PI HoT Trial
- Delegate PETNECK2 Trial
- Co-chair thyroid M&M meetings

Leadership tasks

- Clinical lead for H&N US
- Developing policy & guidance
- Attend / present at CG/M&M / AGM/ ECAG meetings
- Attend senior clinical management meetings
- Associate Lecturer for University of Derby
- Develop & Lead National H&N sonographer group



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Training for the role

Any post graduate study you have completed?

- PGDip medical US
- MSc Medical Ultrasound
- Swansea H&N US workshop
- Cardiff FNA course
- SOR Advanced Practitioner accreditation
- Edward Jenner programme
- Macmillan Explore
- NIHR Associate PI Scheme

What did the training involve?

- In-house training using RCR ultrasound training recommendations for medical and surgical specialities. Signed off to level 3

Did you have a mentor?

- Yes - essential to date
- And a lot of support from management / MDT and wider clinical teams

How long did it take to develop the skills for this role?

- Approximately 2 years

Role Challenges

- Confidence
- Scope of practice
- Development of the role and what is needed in place
- Governance
- Time for learning
- Banding/job description
- Time management
- Developing myself past the scope of practice of a sonographer
- Credit for achievements
- HEI credit for achievement
- Balancing responsibilities

Advice

- A mentor is essential, even if the role is already established
- Passion & enthusiasm
- Know your anatomy
- Read, read, read and read
- Understand the entire patient pathway fully integrate into the MDT
- Involve yourself in audits
- Say yes to opportunity, look for opportunity but don't cut corners.
- Keep learning