



# Helen Brown

## Lead governance & deputy lead sonographer

Shrewsbury & Telford NHS Trust

### Duties

I oversee the quality and governance of the ultrasound service. This has included implementing:

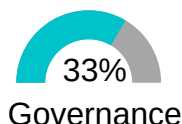
- peer review audit,
- education and learning meetings including discrepancies
- rewriting evidence-based protocols and guidance
- rewriting policies including SOPs
- performing and presenting audits at clinical meetings
- review and feedback from discrepancies
- Equipment QA
- Communicating quality and governance issues through a monthly newsletter
- Education and CPD

### Responsibilities

Collating and presenting the peer review audit results and addressing any issues with individual sonographers/the team

- Chairing education and learning meetings (creating the agenda, collating cases of discrepancy, learning and interesting cases)
- Oversight, design, presenting and dissemination of audit projects and results
- Protocol management of updates/ changes to protocols, liaising with clinical specialities to align protocols.
- Writing of monthly newsletter to inform staff of national and local guidance, audit results, CPD opportunities, educational editions, changes to the evidence base.

### Role mix



### Career history

Qualifying as a sonographer in 1994, I specialised in vascular ultrasound when it was in its infancy from 1997. Over the following years, I continued to work in several areas taking on roles which developed my clinical and educational skills. Guest lecturing at UCE 2001, visiting lecturer at BCU between 2011-2015, becoming a senior lecturer and later the programme director for Post graduate medical ultrasound at BCU in 2018. Alongside lecturing and clinical work, I worked as a clinical skills trainer NAAASP (2011) and took a part-time secondment as coordinator for NAAASP (2014-15). More recently in 2020, I returned to clinical practice and was given the opportunity to developed the governance and quality lead role in ultrasound.

### Leadership tasks

Deputy lead sonographer, we are a multi-site Trust, so I cover for the lead sonographer when necessary. I act as professional lead in ensuring protocols and policies are up to date, disseminated and adhered to. I oversee and mentor trainee sonographers, supporting academic and clinical work. I introduced and supervise preceptorship and induction periods for newly qualified and new to the department sonographers.



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### Setting up the role

What was the need for the role?

- Introduce and support governance processes within the department;
- Embed evidence-based practice/protocols
- Introduce peer review audit, educational and learning/discrepancy meetings
- Support staff education including preceptorship/induction/training/CPD

Was it an established opportunity?

- No, I was returning to clinical practice from my time working at the university and was well placed with knowledge of what was happening nationally to fulfil the role.

Did you apply for the role?

- No, I increased my hours and the role was extended to include the responsibilities.

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

- Yes.

### Training for the role

Any post graduate study you have completed?

- MSc Medical Ultrasound, PgCE Higher education

What did the training involve?

- I didn't receive any training, I looked at documentation from RCR and SoR and went from there.

Did you have a mentor?

- No

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

- It probably took me about 6 months to establish different elements of the role, for example the peer review and learning meetings, but this was complicated by Covid and the precautions and mitigations around that time.

### Role challenges

Time and lack of staff. I only have one day a week and quite often I get involved in management tasks as well, so it's trying to stay focussed and not allow the time that I have to be eroded by other tasks

### Advice

- Have a very broad understanding of all aspects of ultrasound as a modality.
- Develop relationships within and external to the radiology department, this really enhances learning and sharing with other clinical specialties, this is invaluable when advice is needed.
- Document control, make sure documents are up to date and accessible in formats which suit the working practices of the departments.
- Communication – find a way of disseminating information, again in an easily accessible meaningful way. I write a newsletter which contains current areas of learning, what's going on nationally, educational pieces, conference/study day reports, CPD etc.
- Read widely and be up to date with national guidance relevant to the area you are working on.
- Try to attend BMUS ASM and refer to SoR and BMUS for guidance documents.
- Develop and use your network, there's no point reinventing the wheel.