



**MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH MARCH 2008,
AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207 PROVIDENCE SQUARE,
LONDON SE1 2EW**

PRESENT:

Julie Burnage {JB}
Gillian Cattell {GC}
Anne-Marie Dixon {AMD}
Gill Dolbear {GD} {Chair}
Regina Fernando {RF}
Rosemary Kelso {RK}
Pauline Kilbourn {PK}
Nigel Thomson {NT}

IN ATTENDANCE:

Audrey Paterson {AP}
Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and brief introductions were made.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Tom Brown, Janis Martin, Crispian Oates, Rita Phillips, Elaine Watt and Lisa Wright.

3. TOM BROWN {TB}

TB was unable to attend the meeting but had sent in a paper which was tabled and discussed by the group. His key questions were:

Why do pregnant women not get a 20 week scan and where in the country is this practice happening?

Musculoskeletal injuries in sonographers and how these can be prevented?

Vasa Praevia – is there evidence that this can be diagnosed at the 20 week scan?

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that RP draft a response and circulate to the group for comment/amendment before it goes out to TB. TB to be thanked for raising the profile of the issues covered.

ACTION: GROUP & RP

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER 2007

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2007 were approved as a true and accurate record.

5. MATTERS ARISING & ACTION POINTS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

5.1 Patient Liaison Group (minute 4.1)

AP informed the group that the Patient Liaison Group (PLG) was established a year ago and have had 2 meetings since then (June and November 2007). They have their own terms of reference and give advice to the organisation from a patient and public perspective. It will take about 2-3 years for this group to be fully established. The Chair of the group attends CBoT and the Vice Chair attends the AAB. They have recently agreed to send a representative to the Website Editorial Board meetings. It was envisaged that over time a representative from the group will sit on all advisory groups.

It was agreed that formal recognition is needed and AP was tasked with inviting a representative from the PLG group to sit on the UAG.

ACTION: AP

5.2 Future Direction of the Group (minute 4.3)

RP to remind last few outstanding members to send in their synopsis to upload to the website.

ACTION: RP

5.3 Work Related Disorders (minute 4.4)

It was noted that this item will be discussed at the next meeting as funding issues needed to be addressed.

ACTION: RP

5.4 Guidelines for Obstetric Scanning and Increased BMI (minute 4.5)

It was noted that a document is being designed from the health and safety perspective of the worker. NICE is also looking at these guidelines. RP and LW to report at next meeting on guidelines.

5.5 Update on National Group Activities

The proposed change to the constitution to reduce the number of sonographer seats on BMUS Council was defeated at the recent AGM, and AMD was happy to report that sonographers still have 3 protected seats on the Council.

5.6 Any Other Business (Minute 13.3)

NT reported that RP introduced him to suppliers of non latex TV probe covers and he will email contact details to the rest of the group.

ACTION: NT

6. POLICY ON INTERVENTIONAL WORK

- 6.1 It was agreed that interventional work should be included in the Ultrasound Practice document, currently in development. This document should be considered at the next meeting.

ACTION: RP/Next Agenda

7. 'SONOGRAPHER' PROTECTED TITLE

- 7.1 AP informed the group that the application document was in the process of being finalised and will be sent to the Health Professions Council (HPC). The Society had a positive preliminary meeting with the HPC and the application will be considered by the HPC at their meetings in March and July.

There was concern from the group that there are so few sonographers on the voluntary register and ways of encouraging them were discussed. One such suggestion was to put a notice in BMUS News to encourage sonographers to register. It was agreed that RP and AP meet and discuss ways of encouraging sonographers to join the voluntary register.

ACTION: RP & AP

8. ULTRASOUND SCREENING

- 8.1 Following a discussion on ultrasound screening by the group it was noted that RP will report at the next meeting and give more in-depth feedback. AP will speak to RP and Anne Shaw (AS) on writing a briefing article on Aortic Aneurysm screening.

ACTION: RP & AS

9. UPDATE ON SoR ACTIVITIES RELATING TO ULTRASOUND

- 9.1 AP gave an overview of the Scope of Practice for Assistant Practitioners in Ultrasound document and thanked the group for their very useful and constructive comments. The impetus for this document was initiated by the National Imaging Board and reinforced by the ultrasound working group which was commissioned to look at this. AP reported that the document was completed and presented to Council for approval earlier this week. The document was quite restrictive, with improved supervision and accountability high in importance. Following proof reading the document will be printed.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 AMD informed the group that the next Skills for Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 16th April 2008 which will be looking at the field site test report. Feedback from the draft standards review workshops is outstanding. It was noted that the draft standards were emailed to around 20-30 people and the testing only finished recently.

- 10.2 PK informed the group that she recently attended the Inaugural meeting of the Gynae Imaging Group which has 6 sonographers on its panel. It emerged that they did not know that SCoR represents sonographers. PK will send contact details to RP to get in touch with Chair of the group to discuss further.

ACTION: PK & RP

Following discussion of preceptorship for gynaecology training it was agreed that AP would ask RP to do some exploring of the ultrasound service in regard to revised training for obstetricians and gynaecologists and the implications of this for sonographers.

ACTION: AP & RP

- 10.3 PK informed the group that James Cook hospital in Teesside is a pilot site for the Choose and Book system in the x-ray department. Although the Trust seems to think it will be as easy as in the Outpatients Choose and Book, there are some significant reservations. PK will give feedback to the group once it has started.

ACTION: PK

- 10.4 GC queried direct entry for sonographers. It was noted that at present, BSc (Hons) is the threshold indicated in the application to the HPC but to make such a change would need a staged approach.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 11.1 The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 26th June 2008 commencing at 1.00pm with lunch at 12.30pm.