

Double Job Stress or Double Job satisfaction?

Dual Roles in Mammography : Breast Service Lead and Image Reporting

Background: Advanced Practice has evolved in the Breast Screening Programme to the level of Consultant Practice in many centres, fulfilling the 4 tier structure for career framework (COR 2016) ¹ This has been due to a decrease in available Radiologists particularly those who specialise in Breast diagnostics.

As Breast Imaging is highly specialist often Mammographers expand their skillset in more than one direction within the framework as they progress in their careers and this has become increasingly prevalent in the case of Lead Mammographers who also undertake some Clinical Advanced Practice.

There are four key elements of advanced practice that underpin the duality of the role as a Lead Mammographer with Advanced Practice. These are as follows:

Education

- Teaching locally to students and other trainee film readers
- Speaking at Mammography study day and presenting audit findings
- Involvement in revision of National Occupational Standards
- Development of staff training activities to improve service quality



Clinical

- *Manage Patient caseload
- *Support the Radiology team
- *Develop radiographer led services
- * Facilitate efficient throughput and meet National screening programme targets.

Research

- Contributing towards published research such as participation in the SMALL trial
- Professional Clinical Advisor to PHA
- Audit such as arbitration incidences and single read detected cancers.
- Eklund technique audit collated regionally to influence best practice
- Supporting the department research ethos and portfolio.

Leadership

- Link between medical and radiography and other disciplines
- Role Model and support standards of care
- Lead a department and ensure smooth running of daily service
- Lead on organisational outcomes and ensure maintenance and achievement of NHSBSP standards
- Chair meetings as team lead and report through governance structures in place.
- Service Improvement and development
- Member of Advanced Practice Forum
- Appraisal and peer support

Conclusion:

The role of Lead Mammographer, (formerly Superintendent Radiographer) is evolving with many mammographers wanting to retain their advanced practice skills , and departments preferring to retain their clinical experience.

A dual role ensures safe, effective care to all patients co-ordinated by a radiographer who has a well founded fundamental knowledge and experience.

The role uses advanced clinical and communication skills to manage a workload within a department as well as retaining skills and job satisfaction for individual radiographers ,whilst incorporating the 4 core elements of advanced practice as part of a team.