



MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP (UAG) HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH MAY 2010, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207 PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW

PRESENT:

Julie Burnage {JB}
Jean Carter {JC}
Liz Chapman {LC}
Trish Chudleigh {TC}
Anne-Marie Dixon {AMD}
Regina Fernando {RF}
Vivien Gibbs {VG}
Pauline Kilbourn {PK}
Crispian Oates {CO}
Audrey Paterson {AMP} {Chair}
Wendy Williams {WW}

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nigel Thomson {NT}
Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and brief introductions were made.
- 1.2 AMP chaired the meeting as Gill Dolbear was unable to attend.
- 1.3 Ethna Glean (EG), UKAS Accreditation Manager attended this meeting to give a presentation on the Imaging Services Accreditation Scheme (ISAS), which is managed by UKAS. EG took the group through the accreditation process.

ISAS was developed and is owned by the Society of Radiographers (SCoR) and the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR). It is managed and delivered by UKAS; advised by Joint Accreditation Scheme Committee (JASC).

AMP thanked EG for her presentation and encouraged the group to apply to become ISAS accreditors.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Gill Dolbear, Gerry Johnson, Rosemary Kelso, Rita Phillips and Lisa Wright.

2.2 To note that Janis Martin has resigned from the Ultrasound Advisory Group.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2009

3.1 With the amendment of two typographical errors the minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2009 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING OTHERWISE NOT ON THE AGENDA

4.1 Planning the 2010 Study Day (minute 7.1)

Following discussion on future study days it was agreed that AMP would liaise with Claire Brown (Conference Manager) to determine a date and venue for the spring 2011 study day.

ACTION: AMP & CB

5. ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM (AAA) SCREENING

5.1 CO updated the group on the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening programme. It was noted that the final bid for applications by educational institutions to provide the training has now passed. Following discussion CO agreed to email a document to NT relating to inner to inner measurement techniques. NT will distribute this to the group.

ACTION: CO & NT

6. LIQUOR VOLUME ASSESSMENT AND UMBILICAL ARTERY DOPPLER

6.1 JC raised the issue of best practice for liquor volume assessment and umbilical artery Doppler following the circulation of the NICE implementation proposals for hypertension in pregnancy. She queried whether the UAG would be willing to form a small working group to look at the NICE hypertension guideline implementation and recommend standard techniques for liquor volume and Doppler measurement, as there can be considerable variation in practice. JC, TC and RF indicated their interest and it was agreed that NT and AMP would discuss this further outside the meeting with a view to actioning this.

ACTION: NT & AMP

7. RCOG TRAINING

7.1 It was noted that the initial draft statement as circulated to the group was drawn up by the SCoR with input from the RCOG. It was further noted that the SCoR is supportive of this training programme but it is very important that the current pressures on ultrasound departments are recognised. AMP will be attending a meeting when there will be an

opportunity to further discuss the statement on 28th May 2010. The final statement, when released, will be placed on the Society's website and kept under review.

AMP thanked the group for their very helpful input into reviewing the draft statement.

ACTION: AMP & NT

8. CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC)

- 8.1 NT informed the group that sonographers practising independently and companies will need to be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) by 1st October 2010. Although employees are not required to be registered all employers/providers of services will need to be. NT and JB are due to attend a meeting with CQC on Thursday 10th June 2010. An email has been sent to all sonographers and those who we believe are working independently alerting them to the CQC requirements. This affects all modalities and is not limited to ultrasound.

ACTION: NT

9. FASP NORMAL VARIANT INFORMATION CONSULTATION

- 9.1 NT updated the group on this consultation. It was noted that this information has already been circulated to the group and feedback should be forwarded to NT who will send a response to FASP.

ACTION: GROUP & NT

10. RECENT UAG CONSULTATION AND SCoR DOCUMENTS RELATING TO ULTRASOUND

- 10.1 NT updated the group on recent consultation documents which related to ultrasound and have been circulated to the group for comment. These included the KCARE/CEP consultation on equipment, the NICE hypertension in pregnancy implementation guidance, guidelines for requesting neonatal hip ultrasound and the FASP consultation noted in agenda item 9. NT thanked all for the feedback provided, it is invaluable in helping the SCoR to respond effectively to consultations.

- 10.2 It was noted that the SCoR workforce development document has generated a lot of interest. It was also noted that the National Imaging Board recently produced a document on renal imaging. The SCoR has also recently produced an information document on ultrasound employment, training and registration as we now have many enquiries via CASE.

11. MEDPHOR

- 11.1 NT spoke to the group about the Medphor transvaginal ultrasound computer training aid and informed them that a representative from Medphor would like to come along and speak to the group at the next meeting in November 2010. Following discussion the group agreed that this would be worthwhile. It was agreed that NT will formally invite the representative to the November meeting.

ACTION: NT

12. BMUS LIAISON MEETING HELD ON 6TH MAY 2010

- 12.1 NT updated the group on the recent meeting between SCoR and BMUS where among other things ‘probe cleaning’ was discussed. A proposal was put forward for a joint BMUS/SCoR group to be set up to investigate and develop probe cleaning advice. Initially NT will deal with this issue for the SCoR. AMP indicated that she felt this was a very useful liaison meeting between SCoR and BMUS. It was noted that BMUS is aware of CQC regulations and the new RCOG training programme.

NT requested that the group send him any probe cleaning protocols that are in use in their departments.

ACTION: NT & GROUP

13. PRACTITIONER LEVEL

- 13.1 It was agreed that there will be discussion at the next UAG meeting in November of possible practitioner level activities for sonographers qualifying with a primary degree.

ACTION: NT & VA

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 14.1 To note that some of the group members thought SCoR response on the RCR document was excellent.
- 14.2 To note that Janis Martin has tendered her resignation. It was agreed that AMP would write her a thank you letter.

ACTION: AMP

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 15.1 It was agreed that VA would source dates for the May 2011 and send out with the minutes.

ACTION: VA