



MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21  
JUNE 2007, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207  
PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW

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**PRESENT:**

Julie Burnage {JB}  
Anne-Marie-Dixon {AMD}  
Gill Dolbear {GD} {Chair}  
Regina Fernando {RF}  
Pauline Kilbourn {PK}  
Janis Martin {JM}  
Crispian Oates {CO}  
Nigel Thomson {NT}  
Elaine Watt {EW}  
Lisa Wright {LW}

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Rita Phillips {RP}  
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 Gillian Cattell and Rosemary Kelso.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

3.1 Following amendment of minor typographical errors the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**4. MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

4.1 Purpose of the Group (*Minute 3.3 refers*)

The Patient Liaison Group (PLG) is newly established and it was agreed that it will be discussed at the next meeting.

4.2 Recruitment of New Members (*Minute 4.3 refers*)

RP is still looking for a representative with echocardiography experience to sit on the group. A consultant sonographer – Jane Bates has accepted the invitation to join the group.

**ACTION: RP**

#### 4.3 Future Direction of the Group (Minute 6.3 refers)

RP is still waiting for a few more group members to send in their synopsis and a picture (optional) of themselves to upload on the ultrasound section of the website. RP will remind these members.

***ACTION: RP & GROUP***

#### 4.4 Work Related Disorders (Minute 7.1 refers)

The group suggested that the exercise sheet produced by JB for the Work Related Disorder document would make a good poster to put up in departments.

### 5. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

- 5.1 No nominations for vice chair have been made to date. Chair asked for volunteers and the group suggested a job description be drawn up to enable members to view the duties before accepting this post. It was agreed that RP would draft a job description and email to group.

***ACTION: RP***

### 6. **ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP WORK PLAN 2007-2008**

- 6.1 The group discussed the work plan. Current policy should be looked at to identify ones that need urgent updating.

Develop a detailed ultrasound policy  
Organising of conferences/workshops  
Raise the profile of the group – ongoing  
Setting up of WebPages on SoR website  
Contribute and support publications on the Society website (which is very well covered)  
Provide members with information  
External consultation – ongoing  
Workload – need to think about the website

Rosemary Kelso had circulated a list of previous ultrasound documents which the group looked at. The group queried whether a review date is listed in the document when it is published. RP informed the group that this was so; also the name of the officer responsible for the document.

It was agreed that a policy should be developed around interventional work.

BMUS journal – group members are still trying to get people to write about their extended role/intervention experiences.

- 6.2 Nuclear Medicine Document – the group agreed that this was a very generic document but that the section on assistant practitioners should be removed as an ultrasound version as it is not relevant at present. Ultrasound practitioners have a broader scope of practice than nuclear medicine workers and the group queried

whether the ultrasound document should have a section outlining their normal scope of practice.

Under the Advanced Practice Section for Scope of Practice for Sonographers (publication in discussion/planning stages) it was suggested that only responsibilities be listed for now and it should be kept as generic as possible. The group wanted to know if other professional bodies have publications for scope of practice. RP will follow this up.

**ACTION: RP**

Education requirements – stay as they are at present. Role development – keep in information on Intravenous Injection, especially in regard to contrast agents. Reporting – group suggested moving this to a different section possibly advanced practice.

Refer to the document in relation to Independent practice. Do we need a section on mentorship/preceptorship? What additional benefits would clinical supervision have for training?

Various changes are needed throughout the document and it was agreed that RP would make these changes and email document to group when these are done. She will also trawl through other documents for added guidance. Other group members who think of anything that should be added to email ideas etc. to RP.

**ACTION: RP & GROUP**

## **7. 'SONOGRAPHER' PROTECTED TITLE**

- 7.1 Following discussion the group agreed that before 'Sonographer' can become a protected title it will go through various stages and different legislations before coming to fruition in 2113/2114.

RP explained to the group that the National Voluntary Register for Sonographer was officially opened in May 2007. It has been advertised in Top Talk, and on the website where any sonographers (member of SCoR and/or UKAS) can join. The benefit of this register is to work towards making Sonographer a protected title.

## **8. GUIDELINES FOR OBSTETRIC SCANNING AND INCREASED BMI**

- 8.1 The group discussed the issue of scanning patients with high BMI's and suggested that guidelines for obstetric scanning needed to produce in light of RSI issues. Guidelines for best practice for both sonographer and patient. It was agreed that PK would contact RCOG (Stephen Day) to find out what is said about doing ultrasound on heavy people. The group reiterated that support from others in the department is necessary.

**ACTION: PK**

**9. UPDATE ON SCoR ACTIVITIES RELATING TO ULTRASOUND**

9.1 Voluntary Register – up and running

9.2 Representation on External Committees – Jane Anderson (NICE Guidelines); Audrey Paterson (Fetal Anomaly Steering Group); Rita Phillips (Fetal Anomaly Steering Group); Lisa Wright (Fetal Anomaly Screening Communications and Information Group).

9.3 RP reported that she recently attended along with Audrey Paterson the DoH 18 week target meeting which is looking at the workforce to do work around small limited scope of practice e.g. DVTs, Bladder volumes etc. similar to the radiography assistant workforce.

9.4 AMD gave an overview of the pilot scheme in Leeds/Bradford which trained Practitioners in Ultrasound – Funding from DoH for a pilot scheme to cover early pregnancy dating. It is hoped to be a very small, focussed and restricted area of practice.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

10.1 RP wanted draft ideas for the website especially on how it can be populated with links to College documents. Manufacturers' website – happy to oblige.

RP also informed the group that the MSD publication will soon be distributed.

10.2 The group discussed the need to review if representatives to other bodies such as UKAS and BMUS should be on/from this group.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

11.1 The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007 commencing at 1.00pm with lunch being served at 12.30pm.