The Society and College of Radiographers policy statement: Artificial Intelligence

Introduction

The Society of Radiographers' mission is that members of the society will influence locally and nationally to improve healthcare for society through: promotions of social justice, public service, and personal and professional development.

The College of Radiographers' mission is to promote imaging and radiotherapy science and practice for the benefit of all through: standards for education and practice, promoting and conducting research, and listening to patients and service users.

Combined, these duties drive the work that the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) undertakes around emerging technology. The following short statement of policy aims to ensure that the SCoR realises its mission with a specific focus upon artificial intelligence (AI) and meets the expectation of its members to champion quality services in diagnostic and radiotherapy services.

Principles

The underpinning principle of this policy is that patients, the public and professionals must work in partnership to inform and direct the advancement of quality services when considering the development and implementation of AI, machine learning and deep learning.

There are broad objectives that mirror the mission of the SCoR:

1) To influence and direct improvements which can be made by implementing new technology in healthcare, locally, nationally, and internationally.
2) To promote safe and ethical practice that will enable better patient and service user outcomes.

Policy

In order to achieve these objectives, the SCoR must:

1. Support members' education, personal and professional development, including the provison of regular updates via social media, *Synergy News*, *Radiography*, and *Imaging and Therapy Practice*.
2. Provide continued support for the Radiographic Informatics Group (RIG) and encourage member engagement with the group. The purpose of the RIG is to enable the SCoR to keep abreast of developments and to inform members of radiography-specific and wider informatics issues.
3. RIG members should be supported to develop the necessary skills to be able to provide critical analysis, review systems/concepts, and provide advice to the profession.
4. Consult with members and provide updates.
5. Collaborate proactively with stakeholders in the informatics and technology fields.
6. Work collaboratively with sister organisations to promote AI, once unequivocal benefits have been demonstrated.

7. Promote and facilitate research and development of professional body standards for practice in partnership with patients and the public.

8. Promote the use of data to inform evidence-based and values-based practice. A particular emphasis is placed upon the need to pursue social justice by ensuring that the application of technology does not create further inequality in health, with specific reference to the socio-economic determinants of health and the ability to access services.

9. Continue to set standards for professional practice which are included in the SCoR education and career framework. Work to review the education and career framework will continue to be core to the development of standards of proficiency for the profession. The work will take into account the opportunities for innovation and development of practice and patient care that are afforded by evolving technology, AI, machine learning and deep learning.

10. To be cognisant of the impact AI may have on future HCPC standards of proficiency.

11. The SCoR should be mindful of opportunities to adopt AI systems for the improvement of its service to the membership. New initiatives will be tested and assessed to strike the right balance between additional efficiency with appropriate transparency and member engagement.

12. The protection of patient data is paramount. We would expect that as a minimum standard, any AI system will have clinical governance measures in place and will be compliant with current QSI and GDPR.

Outcomes

The outcomes and success of this policy will be measured by members of the society and by patients and the public – in terms of their confidence and ability to direct the development of the services that they provide and access.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SCoR with an intention to examine work that is both under development and ongoing.