



**MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 2007, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS,  
PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW**

15<sup>TH</sup>  
2007

**PRESENT:**

Julie Burnage {JB}  
Anne-Marie Dixon {AMD}  
Gill Dolbear {GD}  
Regina Fernando {RF}  
Rosemary Kelso {RK}  
Pauline Kilburn {PK}  
Nigel Thomson {NT}  
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 Jane Bates, Gillian Cattell, Janis Martin, Crispian Oates, Helen Rimington (rep from BSE) and Elaine Watt.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2007**

3.1 Following amendment of a minor typographical error the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2007 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**4. MATTERS ARISING & ACTION POINTS NOT OTHERWISE NOT ON THE AGENDA**

4.1 Patient Liaison Group (*minute 4.1*)

At the last meeting the group agreed to discuss this item today. The group discussed the merits of having a representative from the Patient Liaison Group (PLG) on this group and whether it was appropriate to have representative from this group.

Following discussion the group felt that they should be transparent and open to other reps/groups. Reps can be invited when there is an item that is pertinent to them. RP to find out more about the PLG and what other meetings they attend. The group would also like to have a look at their minutes; RP to source.

***ACTION: RP***

4.2 Recruitment of New members (*minute 4.2*)

Helen Rimington from the British Society of Echocardiography {BSE} has agreed to join the group.

4.3 Future Direction of the Group (*minute 4.3*)

At the last meeting RP reminded the last few members to send in their synopsis to upload on the website. This is almost done although a couple are still outstanding.

4.4 Work Related Disorders (*minute 4.4*)

At the last meeting the group suggested that the exercise sheet produced by JB for the Work Related document would make a good poster to put up in departments and it has now been agreed that RP will speak to Audrey Paterson about distributing this poster to ultrasound departments and uploading to the Society's website.

***ACTION: RP***

4.5 Guidelines for Obstetric Scanning and Increased BMI

The group felt that guidelines need to be written for sonographers dealing with patients with increased BMI, particularly in Obstetric ultrasound to promote effective work flow, reduce the incidence of Work related disorders and draft a policy on the number of rescans in cases of inadequate images for diagnosis in these scenarios. RP and LW will draft some guidelines and circulate to the group.

***ACTION: RP & LW***

**5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

5.1 AMD and LW volunteered and it was agreed that they will share this responsibility.

**6. UAG WORKPLAN 2007-2008**

6.1 The group discussed the work plan for 2007-2008. The group went on to discuss the Ultrasound Practice draft document and the following were suggested:

The difference between a radiographer and a sonographer needed to be clarified  
Integrate roles and educational requirements  
Limited section for assistant practitioners  
Current practices  
Whole section on role development/prescribers

**7. POLICY ON INTERVENTIONAL WORK**

7.1 It was agreed that this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

**8. 'SONOGRAPHER' PROTECTED TITLE**

- 8.1 The group discussed the issue of 'sonographer' becoming a protected title. An application to the HPC is currently being prepared and will be submitted in 2008.

**9. ULTRASOUND SCREENING**

- 9.1 RP informed the group that The Fetal Anomaly Screening Committee structure had changed and that Downs and Structural Anomaly Screening had been amalgamated. A new fetal anomaly screening template had been discussed and will be finalised soon.

**10. SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS IN ULTRASOUND**

- 10.1 The group discussed member's queries. There was also discussion about the CRIS system and it was noted that how well it works depends on how it is set up in the first place. It was agreed that RP will respond to individual member's queries.

**11. UPDATE ON SoR ACTIVITIES RELATING TO ULTRASOUND**

RP informed the group that the IDPA handbook had just been approved by Council and will be published in New Year.

It was noted that following a DH meeting regarding 18 week waiting initiative, an Ultrasound Scoping Workforce group has been looking at the possible role of assistant practitioners. The group requested the results of survey. The group felt that they should be involved in the work the Ultrasound Scoping Working group is engaged in around ultrasound. RP to discuss with AP.

***ACTION: RP***

**12. UPDATE ON NATIONAL GROUP ACTIVITIES**

- 12.1 Membership needs to be reviewed; there was nothing to report from CASE. AMD requested support from the group to advertise the upcoming BMUS conference and attend the AGM to vote against the proposed change to the Constitution that would reduce the number of sonographer protected seats on Council.

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 13.1 In the recently published Consent document by the College it was noted that the document states that a chaperone should be present for all intimate examinations. The group were concerned as it is not always possible to have a chaperone available for such examinations. Following discussion it was agreed that the document is a 'good practice' guide and local agreed policies should be adopted. The group further agreed to discuss this issue at Trust level as it may impact on sonographers.

- 13.2 Usually when RP receives Consultation documents she generally sends them round to the whole group but AMD suggested that volunteers from the group be chosen in turn to review Consultation documents and RP agreed.

***ACTION: RP & GROUP***

13.3 NT inquired about non latex TV probe covers and RP agreed to find out further information about possible manufactures.

***ACTION: RP***

13.4 Thomas Brown had been in touch with SCoR with regards to Work related Disorders in sonographers and following discussion the group thought it would be beneficial to invite to the next ultrasound meeting. It was agreed that RP would extend an invitation.

***ACTION RP***

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

14.1 The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008 commencing at 1.00pm with lunch at 12.30pm.