

## **CL8 – The service implements and monitors systems to review current and emerging clinical practice, implementing new practice as appropriate.**

- a. The delivery of imaging pathways should be grounded in current best practice. Services should carry out regular audits to explore the effect of current practice on patients. Since developments in radiology are rapid, services should review emerging clinical practice regularly and develop their own evidence-based clinical practices.
- b. Robust systems should be in place to support regular audit of practice. Audit activities should be multidisciplinary, follow best practice, and include completion of all audit cycles. Information from audit should be used to monitor current performance and explore changes in practice to improve outcomes and experience for the patient. Audit findings and details of consequent changes in practice should be disseminated widely.
- c. Imaging practice should be regularly audited and reviewed, in line with the guidance and audit tools developed by professional bodies, and in consultation with service staff and clinical groups and specialties which make use of the service.
- d. Many other activities may produce developmental data, for example: clinical and other audits; local application of existing research; clinical innovation; service evaluation; patient or staff surveys; and quality assurance programmes. A systematic approach should be adopted to ensure benefits are derived from these activities. This should include ensuring the findings are disseminated to all relevant staff and used to inform service development.
- e. Systems should be in place to support and encourage review of emerging clinical practice and controlled, agreed introduction of new practice and supporting evidence. Processes should be in place to facilitate safe effective provision of emergent practice, to optimise clinical outcomes, minimise the incidence of adverse events and recognise and manage complications when they occur. Policies and processes should be in place to provide robust and effective governance for new clinical practices and ensure that staff receive proper training and are aware of risks.
- f. Health research is essential to ensure that emerging practice is based on recent and reliable evidence and the needs of the public. Research should: support national policies to improve the nation's health; place patients at the centre of healthcare; focus on quality, transparency and value for money; and respond to changes in society and the environment and emerging health challenges.
- g. Where possible, research should be carried out by multidisciplinary teams with input from patients. Since radiology has a fundamental role in much clinical practice, support should be available for a radiology contribution to research carried out by others, as well as research focused on radiology.
- h. All research involving patients, staff or resources must be approved by a research ethics committee and the chief executive of the parent organisation. Processes should be in place to manage risks arising from research and encourage openness about research activities. The issue of managing participant consent must follow national guidance. Services should have procedures for reviewing research proposals in collaboration with other departments and their parent organisations, and providing consistent responses to requests. Particular care should be taken with requests for research involving pregnant women or children.

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## **Websites**

NHS Improvement <https://improvement.nhs.uk/>

NHS England <https://www.england.nhs.uk/clinaudit/>

NHS Research and Development Forum. [www.rdforum.nhs.uk/](http://www.rdforum.nhs.uk/)

National Institute for Health Research <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

Health Research Authority. <http://www.hra.nhs.uk/>

UK Clinical Research Collaboration UK <http://www.ukcrc.org/>

National Institute for Social Care and Health Research (NISCHR): Welsh Government. <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?orgid=952>

Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

[http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/about\\_us/what\\_we\\_do/improvement\\_research.aspx](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/about_us/what_we_do/improvement_research.aspx)

Integrated Research Application System. <https://www.myresearchproject.org.uk/Signin.aspx>

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