

Roadshow Events

The first of the diagnostics programme staff roadshows in Blackburn and Preston have been well received. They have prompted good discussion with staff regarding our priorities, have provided an opportunity for staff to ask questions and get involved in the work going forward, and provided feedback on how we should engage and share information in future. Thank you to staff who have attended and provided feedback so far.

Further sessions will be taking place at Royal Preston, Blackpool Victoria, Royal Lancaster and Furness General Hospitals. Look out for the flyers at your organisation.

Artificial Intelligence for Stroke Imaging Pilot

Lancashire and South Cumbria stroke and radiology teams, PACS managers and ICS Digital and Workforce leads came together in July to explore the use of AI software for reading of CT, CTA and CT Perfusion scans for stroke patients. The aim is to:

- Improve speed of diagnosis.
- Increase the number of patients receiving intra-arterial thrombectomy.
- Reduce variation in access to thrombectomy.
- Improve patient experience and outcomes, including reducing disability following stroke.
- Standardise pathways for patients eligible for thrombectomy.

A regional approach to the implementation of AI for stroke patients was agreed on the day.

A clinical/technical specification has now been developed with clinicians and ICS digital colleagues. This was used as the basis for another event in November, where AI for Stroke software suppliers demonstrated their software products. Following an evaluation a preferred supplier will be selected to undertake a two year pilot.

Diagnostic Radiology Pathways – iRefer

Our four acute trusts have agreed to support the adoption of the Royal College of Radiologists' guidelines: 'iRefer: Making the Best Use of Clinical Radiology'. These are aimed at clinicians, radiologists, radiographers and health care professionals to determine the most appropriate imaging procedures for a wide range of clinical problems. The guidelines' methodology has been accredited by NICE, and they are intended to inform clinicians' decision-making.

The document emphasises that guidelines will never replace good communication – but should direct the clinician to the test most likely to give the answer to their question, taking into consideration the small but significant risk from ionising radiation.

The guidelines will be available shortly on the ICS website [here](#).



Diagnostic Radiology Procurement – Asset Register

Lancashire and South Cumbria Radiology Procurement Group has developed a system-wide asset list for radiology, with information on equipment locations, manufacturers, age and operating times. The group intends to maintain this register as a live record, enabling a system view of equipment and facilitate capital replacement plans. The register will enable a collaborative approach to equipment maintenance and future procurement, encouraging joint purchasing and potential opportunities.

Interventional Radiology Workforce

The IR workforce expertise in the region has been mapped, and the results will inform the future discussions regarding vascular pathways in the region.

For non-vascular IR, further work will now be undertaken to understand the availability of consultants to undertake drainages and biopsies across Lancashire and South Cumbria, ensuring all patients have access to appropriate radiological procedures

Endoscopy - Project Initiation Document

The work programme of the group is now being formalised with suggested plan and scope, key areas of future work include:

- Endoscopy planning and development of services across the region.
- Supporting workforce development, particularly for non-medical endoscopists.
- Undertaking a system approach to equipment procurement and digital support.
- Implementing a regional endoscopic ultrasound service (EUS) .
- Supporting the Cancer Alliance's 'straight to test' projects for colonoscopy and gastroscopy.

Question and Queries

This briefing is for use within your own organisation and across your local system, for discussion and information.

Please feel free to include it on

meeting agendas and circulation lists as you see fit.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact

lsc.diagnosticsprogramme@nhs.net and we will

endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

