Radiographers’ perspectives on their changing roles
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Objective of Study
Methods
Results
Conclusion

Objectives
A comparative study across three different settings of
i) the factors influencing radiographer’s roles and
ii) the general and specialist skills required by radiographers

Method cont’d
Focus Groups
Questionnaires
Interviews

Method cont’d
Focus Groups
• Three focus groups
• Used to frame the interview schedule and inform the questionnaire
• Clinical lecturers, radiographers and managers
  ➢ What issues are problematic in pre-service education and practice?

What activities constituted radiographers roles?
• Focus groups identified 20+ activities
• Cleaning of equipment
• Counselling
• Image evaluation
• Role development activities e.g reporting
• Observation activities rarely performed
Informants

Source of information
• Three contrasting sites
• Radiographers of different:
  ✓ seniority
  ✓ experience (years since qualification)
  ✓ specialisms
• Managers

Questionnaire

A. Personal roles, responsibilities and accountability
B. Professional role of radiographers in general
C. Opinion of radiography education
D. Respondents personal background

Questionnaire cont’d

• Provided data
• Served to identify informants for interview

Interviews

• Semi-structured
• Tape recorded
• Based on questionnaire responses

Results: Skills

Largest department
• Greater specialisation
• Narrow experience

Smallest department
• Greater skill mix
• Radiographers with specific skills

Role

• Previous role development now accepted practice
• Radiologists determine roles & role development
• Radiographers as good as radiologist roles in some areas but less expensive
Role Development

- Not all radiographers seek role development
- Role development must benefit the service
- Role development the future

Role Development

- Radiologist support for role development patchy
- Greatest amount of role development in smaller departments
- Radiographers not always financially rewarded for role development

Skill mix

- Radiographers reluctant to allow others to perform aspects of their role
- Radiographers should perform tasks undertaken by others
- No consensus on other areas where radiographers should be developing practice

Role Development

- Red dotting
- Injecting
- Reporting
- Counselling

Assistant Practitioners (A.P.)

- Majority of informants felt A.P. detrimental to
  - Radiography profession
  - Quality of service
- Least opposition in largest department (busiest and with radiographer vacancies)
Attributes
Respondents identified 46 essential attributes
• Patience
• Communication
• Versatility
• Empathy
• Sense of humour
• Caring Attitude & Compassion

Radiographers described themselves as
Main descriptors:
• Professionals
• Team members
• Questioners of accepted practice
• Clinical decision makers
Few described themselves as:
• Decision makers
• Independent workers
• Researchers

Responsibility & Accountability
• Few had responsibility for other radiographers
• Radiographers advise those less experienced
• Accountability unclear

Responsibility & Accountability
• Clinical directors decided on departmental policies
• Largest department hierarchical & least team working

Responsibility & Accountability
Radiographers considered they:
• play an important part in patient’s management
• undertake appropriate exams regardless of request
• experience opposition from non medical referrers

A long way to go?
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