Homerton University Hospital, University College London Hospital & Canterbury Christ Church University Hub and Spoke Reporting Radiographer Training Programme

Background

Imaging within England has seen sustained increases in demand, with limited diagnostic capacity frequently identified as a barrier to improving patient outcomes. Service pressures mean that releasing staff for training, to deliver new models of care required by the FYFV is often challenging, especially in departments with acute capacity issues.

A successful bid to the NHS England Cancer Diagnostic Capacity Fund 2016 cycle is supporting a pan-London cohort of 14 trainee radiographers undertaking a postgraduate certificate in chest X-ray reporting. Centralised work based learning and support, complementing the accredited postgraduate education, may be one way to increase reporting capacity. This method of supporting trainees, using centres with existing, experienced reporting radiographers, has the potential to support departments across a region without a detrimental on scarce radiologist resource. In addition to reduced service pressures, it may be that centralised support is more effective and cost effective.

Next Steps

The cohort of trainees commenced postgraduate education in November 2016 (PgC clinical reporting – adult chest X-rays) at Canterbury Christ Church University. Homerton University Hospital and University College London Hospital are acting as the 'hub' for trainees drawn from eight London hospitals. A comprehensive schedule of tutorials was planned and aligned with the curriculum of a postgraduate certificate in chest X-ray reporting. Trainees were supported via a hub and spoke model, with the majority of education provided by a core group of experienced chest X-ray reporting radiographers. Significant efficiencies of scale are possible with centralised support (48 hours) compared to traditional work-place support (348 hours).

We are currently at the midpoint of the project, with students due to sit the final clinical examination in November 2017. Informal feedback from the trainees has been positive. A formal evaluation of the model is currently underway.

Contact:

Dr Nick Woznitza
Clinical Academic Radiographer
nicholas.woznitza@nhs.net