

Radiographer Comment

Frequently Asked Questions

How can my Hospital and Health Service introduce a model of care for Radiographers providing written comment on plain film x-rays?

A; Communication of findings of a radiographic examination is within the current scope of practice of a radiographer.

A toolkit has been developed to assist with the implementation of Radiographers providing a documented comment on plain x-rays within a Queensland Health setting. The aim is to ensure that appropriate clinical governance arrangements are in place during the transition period until radiographers providing a documented comment on plain x-rays becomes embedded in normal practice. Some highlights of the toolkit are provided below

Endorsement and credentialing

It is recommended that endorsement is obtained from the Hospital and Health Service Credentialing Committee of the practice of radiographer's providing a documented comment of plain X-ray as an interim measure to support implementation of this new way of working within the multidisciplinary team.

Credentialing of individual radiographers is not required. Radiographers providing documented comment on plain X-rays will be registered with the Medical Radiation Practice Board Australia.

Training and assessment

Facilities should undertake a training needs analysis of the radiography workforce in the department to determine current levels of accuracy in providing documented comment and to identify individuals who require additional training. Radiographers should reach a 90% accuracy rate of detection from a bank of plain x-rays prior to implementing the service. If 90% accuracy is not achieved, training should be undertaken.

A training package has been developed for Queensland Health by Monash University to support up- skilling of the radiography workforce where required. There may be other training packages available external to Queensland Health which can be undertaken to assist in up-skilling the radiographer workforce. It is recommended that accuracy testing be undertaken following completion of the training.

Ongoing individual competency and training needs are determined by the local radiography manager through the regular PAD processes.

Standardised practice

Once the Hospital and Health Service Credentialing Committee have endorsed the practice, radiographers are able to commence providing a documented comment. The use of standardised practices to document findings will support clear and consistent communication of examination findings. Depending on local facility practices, documentation of findings can be undertaken using one of the following:

- the Queensland Health standardised radiographer comment worksheet
- Picture Archive Communication System (PACS) /Radiology Information System (RIS).