



**The Royal College of Radiologists  
The Royal College of General Practitioners**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

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### ***Right Test, Right Time, Right Place; a Framework for Primary Care Access to Imaging***

The Royal College of Radiologists and the Royal College of General Practitioners have jointly published a document aimed at improving GP access to diagnostics, including imaging and scanning, for their patients.

*A Framework for Primary Care Access to Imaging* reflects the increasing focus in recent years on patient-centred care closer to home, and the publication is designed to assist general practitioners in providing high quality care across the patient pathway in a timely and appropriate way. Early diagnosis is a key part of this care, via a greater access to diagnostics, including radiological imaging, in primary care.

*Right Test, Right Time, Right Place* supports the healthcare reforms currently being implemented in the NHS in England, including practice-based commissioning, payment by results, and patient choice. The document is being sent out to GPs and clinical radiologists throughout England, and is also available for purchase through the Colleges' websites

Professor Janet Husband, the President of the Royal College of Radiologists, said, "I am very pleased that we have been able to work with the Royal College of General Practitioners on this crucially important publication. *Right Test, Right Time, Right Place* will enable primary care physicians at both a national and local level to improve services for patients. I am sure that it will also lead to closer partnerships between GPs and clinical radiologists, and thereby to better access for patients to imaging investigations."

Professor Mayur Lakhani, Chairman of the Royal College of General Practitioners, said: "Patients expect prompt and timely diagnoses – to do this requires the appropriate use of modern imaging technologies. Lack of access to investigations has created a bottleneck for patients, leading to delays which are a major cause of frustration for GPs.

"The new framework recognises that the best outcome for patients is achieved by a close partnership between GPs and radiologists, both in determining the correct image test and in ensuring that the results are correctly interpreted in the context of the

individual patient. This is an excellent example of the two Colleges working together to deliver major improvements in patient care.

“I would urge Strategic Health Authorities to adopt and implement the document as a matter of priority.”

### **Notes to editors**

1. For further information or a copy of the report, contact the RCR's Communications Officer on 020 7299 1138, or email [dan.garbutt@rcr.ac.uk](mailto:dan.garbutt@rcr.ac.uk)
2. The Royal College of Radiologists has approximately 7,000 members and Fellows worldwide representing the disciplines of clinical oncology and clinical radiology. All members and Fellows of the College are registered medical or dental practitioners.
3. The role of the College is to advance the science and practice of radiology and oncology, further public education and promote study and research through setting professional standards of practice.
4. The Royal College of General Practitioners is the largest membership organisation in the United Kingdom solely for GPs. It aims to encourage and maintain the highest standards of general medical practice and to act as the “voice” of GPs on issues concerned with education; training; research; and clinical standards. Founded in 1952, the RCGP has over 25,000 members who are committed to improving patient care, developing their own skills and promoting general practice as a discipline.

RCGP: Promoting excellence in family medicine [www.rcgp.org.uk](http://www.rcgp.org.uk)

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