



PRESS RELEASE

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Royal College of Radiologists launches PET-CT strategy document

The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) launches its strategy for the development and integration of positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET-CT) services in the UK, on Tuesday 11 October 2005. The document contains recommendations for facilities and equipment, staffing levels, training, and handling of data for the use of PET-CT throughout the UK.

PET-CT scanners combine PET, which shows metabolism and the function of cells, with CT, which shows detailed anatomy, to provide highly detailed 3D images of the human body. This allows for more accurate diagnosis of certain cancers, and means that the appropriate cancer therapy can be started more rapidly and effectively. Amongst the document's recommendations are:

- *Facilities and Equipment* – a “Hub and Satellite” service, with PET-CT at the Hub, providing technical and professional support to Satellites; mobile PET-CT scanners to play an integral role in service provision.
- *Staffing and training* – adequate staffing levels are vitally important to the sustained development of PET-CT services over time; expansion of PET in the UK will require training and recruitment of nuclear medicine and radiopharmaceutical staff.
- *Audit and research* – both audit and research should be integral to and part of a PET-CT service.

The document has been put together by a working party led by the RCR, in collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians, the Intercollegiate Standing Committee on Nuclear Medicine, the British Nuclear Medicine Society, and the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine, and supported by the Society and College of Radiographers. The working party was chaired by Professor Janet Husband, President of the RCR. The proposals have been presented to the Department of Health, where they were positively received.

Professor Husband said, “PET-CT has the potential to play a central role in the management and treatment of cancer patients in the UK. Its key benefit will be in identifying disease more effectively, and therefore indicating the most appropriate treatment option. However, PET is an expensive technology, and the provision of a uniform, high quality service for patients, regardless of where they live, will best be achieved through a logical and comprehensive plan. The College welcomes initiatives for the improvement of waiting times for cancer patients, and the implementation of PET-CT will also contribute to this. The College is very pleased to be able to help shape the future of PET-CT in the UK with this document.”

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The Royal College of Radiologists

Notes to editors

1. For further information or a copy of the report, contact the College's Communications Officer on 020 7299 1138, or email dan.garbutt@rcr.ac.uk
2. The Royal College of Radiologists has approximately 6,600 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.