

PRESS RELEASE

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Colleges enter into negotiations with UKAS to deliver imaging service accreditation scheme

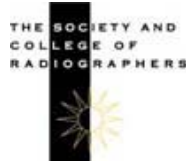
The Society and College of Radiographers, (ScoR) and the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) have agreed to enter into negotiations with the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to become the preferred supplier to manage and deliver a new UK-wide imaging service accreditation scheme.

The scheme has been jointly developed by the Colleges in collaboration with other health professionals and patients' representatives to assess how well imaging services meet required standards for quality patient focused care and are committed to continuous improvement. The new scheme draws on experience from other countries including the United States, Finland and Australia.

The scheme will focus on the delivery of high-quality care for patients by competent staff working in a safe environment. The process of accreditation will involve peer review against explicit agreed standards and criteria supported by expert speciality advice and input from patients and users.

Lord Lindsay, UKAS Chairman, said: "I am delighted that UKAS is now working with the Colleges to manage and deliver this important programme. We are confident that UKAS can add value to the Colleges' scheme and successfully deliver their vision of high quality care for all patients accessing imaging services across the UK."

Michael Graveling, SCoR President, said: "High quality care has been the main priority of this joint initiative. This scheme will engage with frontline staff, encourage continuous improvement and development in services, and provide reassurance to patients. We look forward to expediting the negotiations with UKAS, and keeping imaging services ahead of the policy curve in relation to quality of care for all patients".

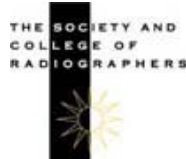


Professor Andy Adam, RCR President, said: "The accreditation of healthcare services is an excellent method of raising standards of care provided to patients. This scheme devised jointly by the Royal College of Radiologists and the Society and College of Radiographers is focused on patients and covers all major aspects of imaging services. We are confident that it will help to improve these services across the United Kingdom and that it will be well received by all professionals involved in their delivery."

More information on the Radiology Accreditation Programme can be found at <http://accreditation.rcr.ac.uk/>

Notes to Editor

1. UKAS's status as the sole national accreditation body recognised by the UK Government is formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills and UKAS. UKAS accreditation involves assessment and verification (against international standards) of certification, inspection, testing and calibration activities.
2. The role of The Royal College of Radiologists 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. The College has approximately 7,600 members and Fellows worldwide representing the disciplines of clinical oncology and clinical radiology.
3. The Society of Radiographers represents more than 90 per cent of the diagnostic and therapeutic radiographers in the UK. It is responsible for their professional, educational, public and workplace interests. The College's objectives are directed towards education, research and other activities in support of the science and practice of radiography.
4. The Radiology Accreditation Programme began in April 2006 and it has received support from over 200 people including lay/patients' representatives, radiographers, radiologists, physicists, nurses and other healthcare professionals. Various organisations are represented on the project steering group such as the Healthcare Commission, General Medical Council and the NHS Confederation together with representation from the Department of Health in England and the Welsh Assembly Government.
5. Projects to complete development of the accreditation standards and to appoint an independent body to manage and deliver a UK-wide imaging service accreditation scheme are on schedule to be completed by the end of October 2008. By that time a comprehensive set of accreditation standards will be ready for publication. It is hoped that negotiations with the UKAS will also be successfully completed to be able formally to appoint them as the preferred accreditation supplier.
6. The Colleges will continue to own, maintain and further develop the accreditation standards.



7. In addition to financial support by the two Colleges, generous funding has been provided by BUPA, Department of Health (England), Nuffield Health (*formerly Nuffield Hospitals*) and Philips Healthcare (*formerly Philips Medical Systems*).

8. Contact details for further comments:

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