
Overview

This standard is concerned with the review of acquired image data and its analysis. This may include interpretation of one or more images for a single patient leading to the preparation of an interpretative report. It may include reference to other results, previous history and reason for referral. Images will have been obtained for diagnostic, anatomical or functional testing purposes or for evaluation of a specific clinical problem.

This standard relates to a range of imaging investigations. Individuals will work within the limits of their authority and competence within the relevant imaging modality.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

SFHCHS109

Produce a clinical interpretation of acquired images

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 confirm identification and annotation of images against associated documentation and take action to rectify any discrepancies
- P2 confirm the clinical question(s) to be addressed
- P3 examine the images for technical and diagnostic quality and take relevant action concerning unsatisfactory image acquisition
- P4 request further imaging where images are insufficient or unsatisfactory
- P5 compare images with any available previous images and reports for the correct patient
- P6 compare images with normal appearances and variants
- P7 analyse and interpret findings and record specific details of any potential or actual variations or abnormalities identified
- P8 make and record judgements relevant to the clinical question
- P9 seek advice from appropriate colleagues where images present unexpected or unusual findings outside of your area of personal competence
- P10 inform the referring clinician of results and action required, in accordance with local protocols, ensuring issues requiring urgent action are clearly defined to effect urgent management
- P11 record, collate and prepare appropriate records and images for transfer or storage in line with local protocols
- P12 prepare a report for the referring clinician in accordance with local reporting protocols
- P13 identify and describe results of the assessment, findings and differential diagnosis
- P14 discuss and review cases of interest at appropriate multi disciplinary meetings

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the procedures and protocols for the correct labelling and identification of patient images and supporting documentation
- K2 your responsibilities under current national legislation and regulation, European, International and local guidelines, Professional Standards and Codes of Practice
- K3 how and from whom to obtain additional information to assist with decisions regarding analysis and interpretation of images
- K4 the clinical features and conditions leading to investigations
- K5 anatomy, pathology and physiology of the system under investigation
- K6 clinical conditions which may require urgent action and how to instigate such action
- K7 normal values and ranges
- K8 normal and abnormal results and their significance to the clinical question or patient condition
- K9 the requirements of interpretative reports
- K10 your limits of competence, authority and responsibility in the interpretation, recording and issue of interpretative reports
- K11 the physical principles of relevant imaging modality and associated artefacts
- K12 the range and type of documentation associated with clinical imaging and patient audit
- K13 the importance of confirming the identification of images
- K14 the correct use of documentation relating to audit
- K15 how to explain results in terms that can be easily understood by non-specialists
- K16 methods, styles and formats for communicating clinical results to referring clinicians and colleagues
- K17 requirements of interpretative reports
- K18 your limits of competence, authority and responsibility in the interpretation, recording and issue of interpretative reports
- K19 relevant medical terminology

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Additional Information

External links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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| Relevant occupations | Health, Public Services and Care; Medicine and Dentistry; Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied; Health Professionals; Healthcare and Related Personal Services |
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