
Overview

This standard relates to the clinical interpretation of one or more investigations for a single individual leading to the preparation of an interpretative report. The clinical interpretation may require additional supplementary information from the individual's medical history, current health status or other information.

Users of this standard should be able to provide information on diagnosis or for a treatment plan and from the information available may be able to offer advice, guidance and information on prior, current or expected prognosis and may influence patient management regimes.

The clinical interpretation may be written or verbal and may be required in team briefings, court hearings or clinical review meetings.

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

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 work within your level of competence, responsibility and accountability
- P2 respect the confidentiality and rights of individuals, when communicating reports relating to their health status, diagnosis or treatment plan
- P3 collate results of investigations and review the results obtained against the clinical history provided
- P4 review the data obtained from the relevant diagnostic and/or therapeutic investigation to provide information relevant to the clinical question
- P5 identify any need for and obtain additional results or clinical information to complete the interpretation in an appropriate time frame
- P6 identify the need for and provide supplementary scientific/technological data within the report to facilitate understanding
- P7 consult, as appropriate, with colleagues to support, confirm or resolve concerns in interpretation
- P8 provide the type and level of relevant detail to enable the original requester to make an informed decision
- P9 produce a clinically interpretative report in a form which meets the needs of intended recipients
- P10 authorise and issue the report in a timely manner and in a format that addresses the urgency of the report
- P11 when specifically requested, provide a verbal clinical interpretation giving clear, factual and pertinent information in response to any queries, in the appropriate medium to meet the needs of the recipient
- P12 refer any queries that are outside your scope of practice to the appropriate colleague or relevant stakeholder
- P13 maintain full, accurate and legible records and store in the correct location in line with current legislation, guidelines, local policies and protocols

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 your own level of competence, authority and specialist knowledge base
- K2 the range of stakeholders involved and their information needs relevant to your work practice
- K3 the principles of anatomy and physiology relevant to your speciality and investigations undertaken within your work practice
- K4 the range of diagnostic or therapeutic investigations, their scope and limitations within your work practice
- K5 the range of clinical features and/or conditions leading to and underpinning the investigation or therapy
- K6 the range of diagnostic or therapeutic results which may require urgent action and how to instigate such action
- K7 how to source information regarding the individuals medical history, current health status and presenting condition and/or any other relevant information
- K8 why it may be necessary to refer to published data and other information sources to assist with decision making and how to obtain and use approved sources of information
- K9 the importance of protocols and procedures for maintaining confidentiality and privacy issues relating to providing a clinical interpretation to other individuals
- K10 the importance of a systematic and logical approach to the analysis of information
- K11 the importance of appropriate data analysis and validation methods in providing results for clinical interpretation
- K12 the range of normal and abnormal values and ranges and the significance of any variances within the results relevant to the clinical interpretation
- K13 the verification and authorisation protocols to avoid making a premature or incorrect interpretation within your work practice
- K14 how to find and check the validity of the individual's results to provide clinical

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Additional Information

Externals Links

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

Dimension: IK2 Information collection and analysis

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