

The logo for the European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS) features the acronym 'EFRS' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The letters are contained within a blue rectangular box with rounded corners. The background of the entire page is a stylized world map in shades of blue, with the map's outline and some landmasses visible against a darker blue background.

EFRS

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF
RADIOGRAPHER SOCIETIES

2012.2 EFRS Statement on **RADIOGRAPHER ROLE DEVELOPMENT**

www.efrs.eu
info@efrs.eu

BACKGROUND

Increasingly radiographers are performing duties which were previously performed by other health professionals including radiologists. This development of the radiographer advanced practitioner role has become an integral part of modern imaging and radiotherapy treatment service. Some of these

advanced practitioner roles are to be found within the areas of ultrasound, mammography, and the reporting of muscular-skeletal images. More and more countries are relying on these radiographer roles to develop and improve service development and delivery. Recently the interest shown in these roles by health professionals and management has increased across Europe [1].•

BENEFITS OF THE ADVANCED PRACTITIONER IN AREAS OF THE PROFESSION

- Advanced practice is the career progression from EQF level 6 (entry to the profession) to EQF level 7 (post-graduate level). At this level practitioners have developed expert knowledge and skills in relation to the delivery of care in diagnostic or therapy.
- This career progression is the same for radiographers with posts in the non-clinical areas of work such as radiographer managers, academic staff and researchers.
- Formal post-graduate university education is essential for radiographers to learn the skills and overall competencies required to take on these roles [2]. National Societies will continue to promote and develop these new roles and encourage Universities to carry out the education required to underpin them.
- According to research, radiographers working at this level have increased job satisfaction thus aiding retention of staff³ and also enable radiologists to deal with more complex procedures [3]. In addition radiographers working at advanced practice in an Accident and Emergency department can improve the patient journey not only within imaging but also in the wider health care environment [4].
- The advanced practitioner has an essential role in enabling the advancement of innovative practice where this can contribute to improvements in service delivery and quality patient care.

CONCLUSION

The advanced practitioner is an integral part of the imaging [5] and radiotherapy treatment team [6] and encourages a multi-disciplinary approach both at local departmental level and in the wider health care environment.

[1] Challen V. A European perspective on the role of radiographers in imaging departments. *Imaging Management* 2011;11(3):14-17.

[2] European Federation of Radiographer Societies(EFRS) Development of the Radiographer Role: EFRS Guidance Document 2011.

[3] McKenzie GA, Mathers SA, Graham DT, Chesson RA (1998) An investigation of radiographers performing barium enemas. *Radiography* 1998;4:17-22.

[4] Snaith B. Radiographer –led discharge in accident and emergency – The results of a pilot project. *Radiography* 2007;13: 13-17.

[5] The Royal College of Radiologists and Society and College if Radiographers. *Team Working in Clinical Imaging*. London: The Royal College of Radiologists and Society and College of Radiographers.2012

[6] Price R et al. *Scope of Radiographic Practice* 2008. London: The Society and College of Radiographers (UK) 2008