

# **EFRS Statement on Radiographer Role Development**

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## 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 staff<sup>3</sup> 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.

## References

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