

## Imaging patients with an acute Stroke-Development of a radiographer led stroke team

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Patients suffering from an acute stroke have special requirements when visiting a busy imaging department. An accurate, speedy diagnosis is key to treatment and rehabilitation. Access to the CT scanner is paramount with the radiological report and recommendations vital. The development of a radiographer led stroke team can potentially deliver improved availability of the scanner and results quicker. With a specially trained radiographer being part of the bleeped team, they can accompany the medical team on arrival of the patient to the emergency department. Here the radiographer can assess the clinical need for a CT scan and cut out the middle man by authorising a CT head request and arrange the scan immediately. The advantage of the same radiographer scanning the patient and also reporting the scan means they are able to visualise and interact with the patient providing a full clinical history and current presentation. The radiographers will develop special skills for dealing with patients suffering from stroke symptoms, be an expert on reporting CT head scans and be able to advise and arrange further imaging if required. Radiographers in the UK are already able to authorise CT trauma and stroke head scans and undertake a CT head reporting. There are image interpretation modules already available as part of the Master's in clinical reporting but with the proposal of a stroke module to complete alongside this, exploring the other concepts and treatment around stroke these imaging services could be improved in waiting times, treatment times and patient satisfaction.

### Biography

Alexandra has worked as a lecturer in imaging for the last two years within the School of Health. Teaching undergraduate radiography students and running a post graduate image analysis course, she has developed a wide range of knowledge in the area of imaging. She has recently presented a poster at UKRC 2013, published a poster at the University's learning, teaching and assessment conference and presented at Achieving excellence in Radiography Education and research conference in November 2012. She is currently awaiting the approval of a research proposal and is due to start a Master's degree later this year.

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