



Clinical
Radiology

The Royal College of Radiologists

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To all CR SIG Leads:

20 September 2018
(by email only)

Dear Dr Maxwell,

Updating the RCR's *iRefer* referral guidelines

As you will know, the College has produced radiology referral guidelines for over 20 years and these have been received very positively in both the UK and overseas. The current version, *iRefer: Making the best use of clinical radiology*, is the eighth edition and was published in 2017. I, and the College's Clinical Radiology Officers, recognise and appreciate the support and input which the Clinical Radiology Special Interest Groups (SIG's) and their members have made to these guidelines over the years, and we hope that this will continue.

The College is working with a technology partner, MedCurrent, to pilot the delivery of the guidelines through clinical decision support software (CDSS). Should the pilots prove successful, and initial feedback is already positive, this would be a significant step in helping referring clinicians to request both the correct imaging investigation and also do so in a timely manner for the patient. It is likely this will also reduce the burden on radiology departments, not least by reducing the need for radiology departments to vet imaging requests.

Going forward, the College will need to move to a more continuous model of updating, in order to ensure that the content remains up to date and fit for purpose. For that reason, in the coming year, we plan to review a subset of around 45-50 guidelines. This will allow us to develop a better understanding of the processes required for continuous updating and would mean that, over a period of 5 years, all the guidelines could be reviewed. Consequently, the College is currently seeking to appoint a Content Development Lead to lead this process. Further information about the role, including a role description and how to apply are available [here](#) on the College's website. This is an important role and, in recognition of this, the College will provide financial support to ensure protected time for this role, so that the work can be undertaken. For NHS consultants the individual's employer would be compensated at the rate required to backfill their post.

The time window for applications is short, the deadline is Monday 8 October 2018. Please do share this information with your members and encourage anybody who is interested to apply or to contact David Christopher (direct line: 020 7406 5931/email david_christopher@rcr.ac.uk) for further information about the role. Please do also let your members know the process of updating *iRefer* will require input from the SIG's, and that they may be contacted, in due course, to be invited to assist with this process. As per previous editions of the guidelines, those involved in the review process will be awarded CPD points in recognition of their contributions.

Finally, as a source of expertise within your field of radiology, we would also welcome any suggestions from your SIG about which guidelines may need prioritisation, for example due to new evidence or indications. If you could set out the title of any such guidelines, your reasons for

suggesting revision or development and links to relevant evidence, we would be most grateful. All such suggestions will be considered in order to inform the process and to ensure that we can make best use of your and your members' expertise. Please send your suggestions to David Christopher at the above email address by no later than 5pm on Monday 29 October 2018.

I look forward to hearing from you and wish success to all those who will be involved in updating the content of *iRefer*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Andy Beale', written in black ink.

Dr Andy Beale
Medical Director, Membership and Business

cc: Dr N Sharma