

## **Building an Advancing Practice in Radiography Special Interest Group (SIG)**

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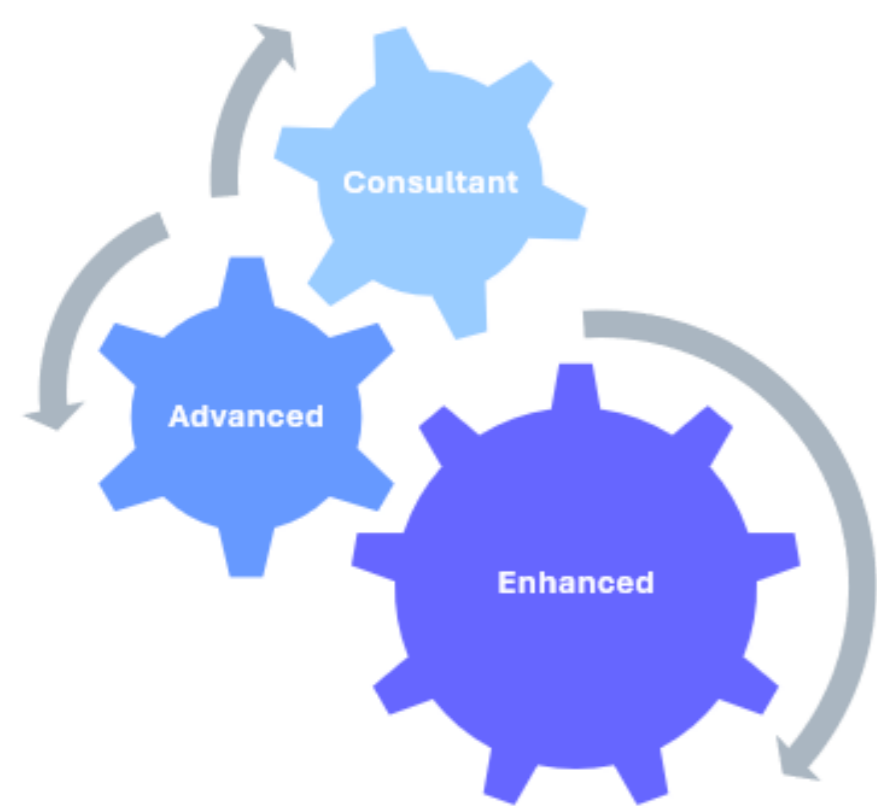
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# Building an Advancing Practice in Radiography Special Interest Group (AP-RAD SIG)

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## Background

Publication of the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan<sup>1</sup> places clear focus on upskilling the workforce to offer modernised career pathways and retain staff delivering clinical care. Opportunities for enhanced, advanced and consultant level practice across the radiography profession are therefore expected to increase.

Whilst advanced and consultant level practice are well established within radiography the publication of the College of Radiographers Education and Career Framework<sup>2</sup> in 2023 offers an updated advancing practice pathway. The increasing level of autonomy which comes with advancing practice means that peer support is crucial for practitioners' future success and wellbeing, as well as ensuring appropriate supervision and governance is supported.

Community of practice (CoP) participants typically share a common domain, practice and desire for self-development through expanding their knowledge base.<sup>3</sup>

A high-functioning CoP is known to provide an effective method of professional development. Through knowledge sharing and increased access to subject-matter experts, alongside valuable information resources, participants are supported to develop professionally, remain at the forefront of their profession, and gain confidence in their own expertise, reducing feelings of professional isolation.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

The Advancing Practice in Radiography Special Interest Group (AP-RAD SIG) aims to provide a community of practice for an increasing cohort of practitioners alongside an opportunity to network and brings a sense of parity to individuals' roles as they develop locally, regionally and more widely across the profession in all 4 nations.

## An Inclusive Community

- The Society of Radiographers (SOR) has a well-established collection of special interest groups, renowned for their inclusive and respectful nature.
- The AP-RAD SIG will be hosted on the SOR Synapse platform with the aim of developing a community of practice focussed upon advancing practice across the Radiography professions.
- Open to all those thinking of moving into the advancing practice space, trainees, and experienced practitioners at each level of practice (enhanced, advanced and consultant).



## Resource Library

Here you will find a number of helpful resources around advancing practice. These are regional, national and international documents.

Create a new item

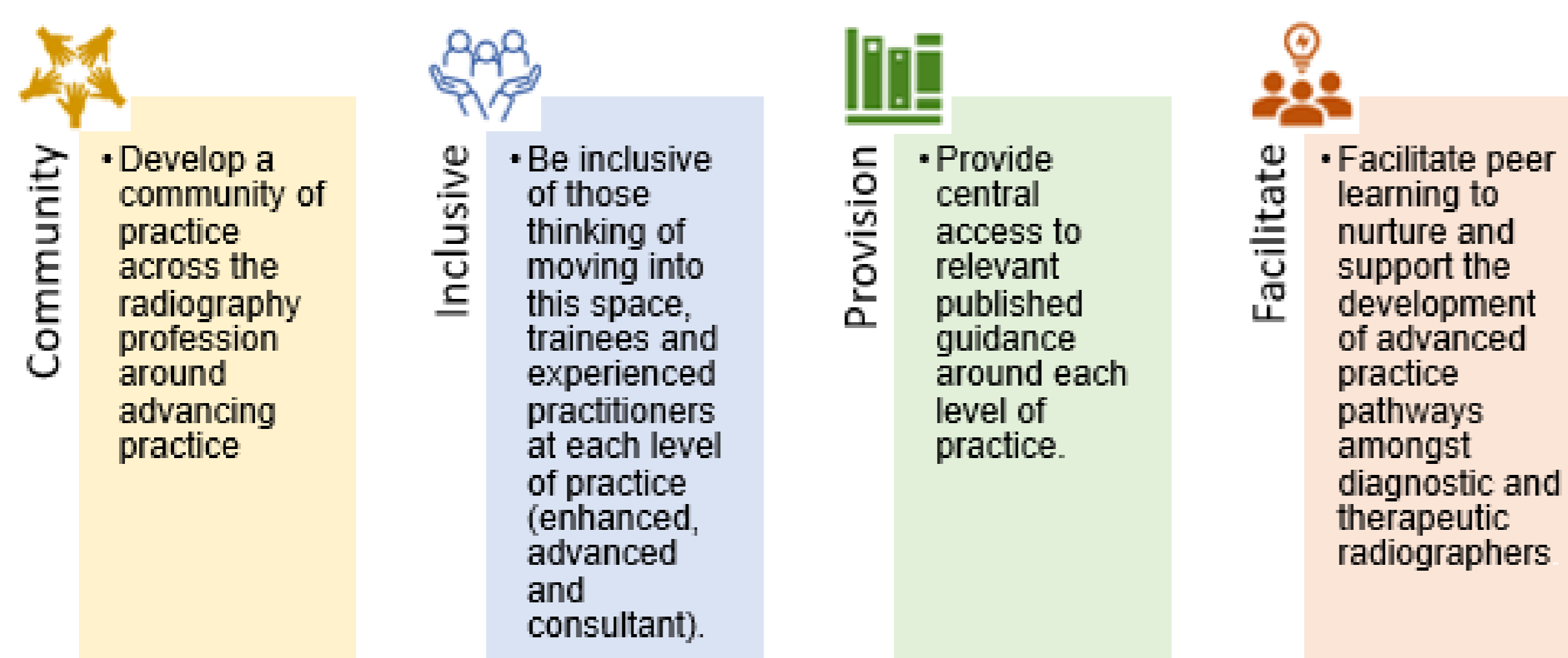
Sort by Select

- Enhanced Level Practice**  
Enhanced practice is a level of practice that covers the graduate professional workforce who have moved beyond novice/competent but and who are not yet working at the level of advanced practice. This level of practice can be a career destination, not just a pre-cursor to advanced practice, and is a highly valued and impactful level of practice within therapeutic radiography. This level of practice carries a wide variety of job titles, and it is important to recognise the varying types of work it encompasses.
- Advanced Level Practice**  
Advanced clinical practice is delivered by experienced, registered health and care practitioners. It is a level of practice characterised by a high degree of autonomy and complex decision making. This is underpinned by a master's level award or equivalent that encompasses the four pillars of clinical practice, leadership and management, education and research, with demonstration of core capabilities and area specific clinical competence. Advanced clinical practice embodies the ability to manage clinical care in partnership with individuals, families and carers. It includes the analysis and synthesis of complex problems across a range of settings, enabling innovative solutions to enhance people's experience and improve outcomes.
- Consultant Level Practice**  
Consultant-level practice consists of expertise in the four domains necessary for enabling quality care across all levels of the system. Practitioners hold a valuable key skill set for systems leadership and systems transformation, underpinned by clinical credibility in their professional field and their ability to act as an embedded researcher.
- Supervision**  
Useful guidance for workplace supervision of advanced clinical practice development, which ensures that both patient and professional safety are maintained during the practitioner's advanced clinical practice development.
- Governance**  
Resources designed to help organisations ensure adequate governance when implementing advanced practice.
- Education and Training Resources**  
Includes links to previously recorded podcasts and webinars
- Research**  
Includes published guidance specific to achieving research capabilities across all levels of advancing practice

Figure 1: An example of the content available to participants on the AP-RAD SIG Synapse workspace

## Summary

The AP-RAD SIG workspace has been designed to:



## With Facilitated Provision

- The AP-RAD SIG provides support, to share and develop practice, reducing feelings of silo working and providing peer support and encouragement.
- Allowing social and self-directed learning to push the boundaries of existing knowledge and expertise.<sup>3</sup>
- Discussion is encouraged to stimulate and generate safe and high-quality patient services that meet current legislative requirements.<sup>4</sup>
- The content on the platform will be provided by group members, and updated as publications are released.
- Facilitated online networking with informal meetings held 3 times per year, allowing for safe discussion.
- Topics will be guided by the attendees, with invited speakers to present on topics as desired by the group members.

## References

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