

National recognition of the advanced level of practice: an update on radiographer attainment in England [abstract only]

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National recognition of the advanced level of practice: an update on radiographer attainment in England

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Objectives

- To provide an overview of the NHS England ePortfolio (supported) route for recognition of advanced practice
- To share an update on radiographer attainment of a 'digital badge' through this route

Key findings

A national recognition scheme was launched by NHS England in 2022 and is designed for individuals working in advanced practice roles with prior academic and experiential learning. On this ePortfolio (supported) route the individual is supported by an educational supervisor to provide evidence of their capabilities against a multiprofessional framework.¹ Internal academic and external independent verification assures parity in assessment. To date there has been greater engagement in this multiprofessional scheme than a previous radiographer-specific accreditation route.²

Over the four years of operation both diagnostic and therapeutic radiographers have applied for recognition through this route with two higher education institutions (HEIs) have provided support to the radiography applicants to the scheme. Research has demonstrated that many radiographers felt unprepared to evidence their development against expectations³ and many commenced their portfolio on commencement of their acceptance onto the scheme. Further guidance on the number and focus of evidence has tried to limit the amount of time individuals spend on its generation.

Conclusion

Radiographers are able to gain recognition as an advanced practitioner against national standards alongside other professions using evidence of their capabilities.

Implications for Practice

- Evidencing capabilities requires the development and maintenance of a portfolio
- Employer and practitioner awareness of the requirements of the advanced level is essential to ensure support and successful attainment of the 'digital badge'

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