

Overview

This standard is concerned with interpreting the findings from diagnostic images and the provision of a report that suggests a diagnosis or differential diagnosis based on the findings from the imaging examination. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
1. check the identification of the images against associated documents, recognise any discrepancies and take appropriate action
 2. examine the images for technical and diagnostic quality, recognise where unsatisfactory images have been obtained and take appropriate action
 3. examine the images to ensure they are consistent with, and appropriate for, the examination requested, and the clinical information provided
 4. request further views, sequences, techniques or reconstructions where the images are insufficient or unsatisfactory
 5. compare the images with any available previous relevant images and reports for the individual
 6. assess appearances in comparison with normal appearances and variants
 7. produce a report which:
 - 7.1 provides an interpretation of the findings
 - 7.2 suggests a diagnosis or assists in forming a diagnosis
 - 7.3 advises on follow-up action or management, where appropriate
 8. seek advice from appropriate others where you observe unexpected images or findings that are outside your scope of competence
 9. take appropriate action based on imaging findings, including where immediate action is required in line with local and national protocols
 10. record, collate and prepare appropriate information, documentation and images for transfer or storage according to local protocols

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. legal, organisational and policy requirements relevant to your role, the role of others in your organisation and the activities being carried out
2. the relevant national and local standards, guidelines, policies and procedures that are available and how and when they should be accessed
3. the limitations of your own knowledge and experience and the importance of operating within your scope of practice
4. the anatomy, physiology, pathology and related structures of the area under examination
5. the presenting complaint, other relevant tests and previous clinical history of the individual and how these may contribute to decision making about image appearances
6. how to evaluate the possible effect of trauma or disease on other body structures and systems
7. disease processes and trauma, and the impact of these on image appearances
8. normal and abnormal appearances and the relevant pathologies of the area being examined, their manifestations and significance for management of the individual
9. medical terminology relevant to the examination including abbreviations
10. the principles of image production
11. the ways in which images can be captured, processed, permanently stored, retrieved and forwarded
12. the relationship between the position of the individual and image appearance
13. the technical and diagnostic quality requirements of the image
14. the recognition of artefacts and their impact
15. factors which influence the decision to repeat images or take additional views
16. the indications and contra-indications for the use of other imaging modalities and investigations
17. equipment capabilities, limitations and routine maintenance including the quality control processes required by the operator
18. the role of audit, reflecting on errors, continuous learning and development and discrepancy reviews in image reporting

19. the role of the multi-disciplinary team in image review and finalising reports
20. local procedures and protocols relating to the examination report
21. critical appraisal techniques
22. report writing techniques relevant to the examination
23. how to vary communication styles depending on the intended recipient of the report
24. procedures relating to recording, collating and preparing appropriate information, documentation and images for transfer or storage according to local protocols
25. how to keep full, accurate and clear records in line with organisational procedures

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):
Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

Interpret and report on imaging examinations

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