

QUDI Project CS06

The role of the radiologist in multidisciplinary teams

RANZCR Response

Introduction

This project found that radiologists are a core discipline for multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) in breast cancer care, particularly using a pre-intervention model. The report made a number of recommendations for the RANZCR to promote the role of radiologists in MDT.

Implications for RANZCR

The report recommended that the RANZCR should be more actively involved in promoting the role of the radiologist in MDT, through:

- Involvement at national and jurisdictional policy/ level engagement
- The establishment of a RANZCR MDT interest group
- Promotion of standards for radiologist participation in MDT
- Promotion of the benefits of radiologist participation in MDT to services and to radiologists
- Consideration of MDT models intended to overcome geographic and workforce barriers, such as 'virtual' MDT meetings.

The project found that significant extra effort was being undertaken by radiologists in order to participate in MDTs. Therefore, the effect of participation in MDT on radiologist workloads should be recognised and monitored.

The report suggested that a process should be in place for radiologists to claim Continuing Professional Development points for participating in MDT. It should be noted that the CPD Handbook already lists attendance at clinical meetings in section 7.1B. MDT could be included as an example in this section.

Recommendations

The RANZCR will consider the establishment of an MDT interest group within the RANZCR membership to support best practice and information exchange.

The RANZCR considers an engagement strategy with jurisdictional and national agencies responsible for MDT policy and program research and development.

The RANZCR considers establishing and promoting linkages with organisations that provide radiologists with team leadership training, for use in MDTs.

The RANZCR includes MDT as a specific example of a clinical meeting in the CPD Handbook (s 7.1B), to encourage radiologists to participate in MDT.

The RANZCR will promote the benefits of radiologist participation in MDT through radiology and health service communication channels.

The RANZCR will consider the impact (positive and negative) that technology may have on radiologist participation in MDTs in order to overcome workforce barriers.

The RANZCR considers developing and disseminating a document on MDT, outlining what constitutes an MDT, requirements for effective MDTs (staff time, facilities, support, IT infrastructure) and defining the role of radiologists in MDTs.