Radiology Ordering

# About

This paper summarises feedback from the SCIMP team on the current methods of radiology requesting in NHS Scotland. Primarily this is from a general practice perspective, with some knowledge of order comms use in secondary care also included. This document is not a comprehensive analysis of all Boards in Scotland and represents our understanding of current methods employed - readers should be aware this has not been verified.

# Report

There are a wide variety of methods and technical solutions used across NHS Scotland for radiology reporting. Some methods remain paper dependent, with no electronic communications; others make use of electronic communications but send relatively unstructured requests, typically using SCI Gateway, which may need manually transcribed to a Radiology Information System (RIS) on receipt. In other areas ordering is making use of order comms applications, such as ICE or TrakCare. Sunquest ICE is integrated (in a limited way) via APIs with Vision and EMIS.

There is thus no single method being employed, and no underlying data standards underpinning all ordering.

## Tayside

In Tayside our members report that both General Practice and Secondary Care use Sunquest ICE for ordering Xrays, Ultrasounds (including Cardiac USS), CT and MRI.

## Glasgow and Clyde

In acute GGCHB uses TrakCare order comms for radiology requests.

In general practice at present paper forms are typically used (sometimes via mail merges from EHRs, sometimes just with patient detail sticky labels), and forms sent by internal mail to radiology departments. For ‘drop in’ services forms are handed directly to patients who then present it to the reception at radiology departments.

GGCHB is planning to move to using Sunquest ICE for ordering from general practice, expected to be implemented over the next 12 months.

## Dumfries and Galloway

In DGHB SCI Gateway is used to generate the referral, which is then sent electronically to the hospital. The request is then manually transcribed to the RIS. No ‘drop in’ service is available. Request options are constrained within the SCI Gateway template to those requests available to general practitioners direct requests -generally plain films and simple ultrasounds. MRI of knees is available under some circumstances and CT scans can occasionally be requested in exceptional circumstances.

## Highland

In Highland GP ordering is also managed via SCI Gateway. This includes plain x-rays, ultrasound and DEXA scans. Options also exist for Barium contrast investigations of upper GI tract.

## Fife

In Fife GP ordering is via SCI Gateway for plain X-rays, ultrasounds and in specific circumstances for MRI of spine.

Secondary care uses Cyberlab but is migrating to use Trakcare order comms.

## Lanarkshire

In Lanarkshire HB we understand SCI Gateway is being used for ultrasounds, but otherwise ordering is dependent on paper processes.

## Lothian

Lothian ordering makes use of SCI Gateway for plain films, ultrasound, CT and MRI. A specific protocol allows for ultrasound ordering in post-menopausal bleeding.

## Orkney

Orkney HB also makes use of paper forms for ordering by GPs, typically completed on a computer / word processor, then printed and faxed. This appears to be for plain films and ultrasound only. Direct ordering of CT and MRI is not available to GPs.

## Ayrshire

Ayrshire HB is using tQuest, and order comms application that works with EMIS. This is used for all plain films, ultrasounds and DEXA requests. It includes algorithms / pathways that allow CT scans to be ordered in specific circumstances.

## Grampian

Grampian HB makes use of SCI Gateway for ordering of all X-rays and ultrasounds for GP ordering.

In acute we believe Trakcare order comms is used.

## Forth Valley

Forth Valley HB makes use of DartOCM for order comms for radiology in both general practice and secondary care. This system integrates with EMIS.

## Western Isles

Radiology requests including plain films, ultrasound and CT requests are all by paper. Gynaecology ultrasound (transvaginal scans) are ordered via SCI Gateway referral.

# Comments / Corrections

Please forward comments and corrections to:

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