

# Project scope: North Radiology Alliance (NRA)

28 February 2022

## Research question

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has been asked to advise on the key features necessary for a successful radiology network in the north of Scotland.

NHS England, in consultation with The Royal College of Radiologists, Society of Radiographers and Institute of Physics & Engineering in Medicine, has produced an implementation guide for radiology networks in England. The Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) will seek to capture the experience of the English radiology networks to identify key features for success and lessons learned, with particular focus on the value of the implementation guide to establish and run sustainable and resilient networks. Opinion will be captured by a short survey.

A search for relevant literature describing the English networks' experience, as well as other countries' experience of radiology networks, will be carried out.

The NRA require the work by May, 2022. Time permitting, an assessment document summarising the English experience of setting up radiology networks using the implementation guidance will be peer-reviewed by stakeholders in the Scottish radiology community, with a focus on the transferability of this information to the north of Scotland setting.

The results will be used by the NRA to aid decision-making and planning about how best to focus their resources in developing a successful network.

## Inclusion criteria

The selection of studies for inclusion in the literature review element of the project will be based on the following criteria:

<b>Population</b>	Members of radiology networks. Focus on networks in England set up to deliver the <a href="#">NHS Long Term Plan</a> and guided by the <a href="#">Diagnostic imaging network Implementation Guide</a> .
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<b>Intervention</b>	Creation of network/ use of implementation guides
<b>Comparator</b>	Operating model prior to establishment of network
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>Experience of individuals within networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• success of network (benefits to patients, workforce and service operations)</li> <li>• what parts of the NHS England guidance was of particular value</li> <li>• lessons learned</li> <li>• any key success factors identified (was nationally available leadership support/ funding/ national strategy to direct activities key to any of the successes (NHS England have funded community diagnostic hubs for example and invited interested networks to bid – driving specific changes in the way services are delivered)?</li> <li>• timescales to establish a network</li> </ul>
<b>Limits</b>	Achieving the outcomes is contingent on input from colleagues and stakeholders across the UK. Where it has not been possible to achieve the outcomes, this will be documented within the final report.

## Planned activities

SHTG have agreed on the following activities to support the development of an assessment of a north radiology alliance:

1. Engagement and consultation – short survey of English radiology network representatives (subject to discussion with leads on English networks)
2. Engagement and consultation – peer-review by relevant experts in Scotland

## End products

At the end of the project, SHTG will publish:

- SHTG Assessment, which includes literature search findings, survey results and (TBC) peer review.
- plain language summary

## Timescales (approximate)

May 2022