

# Image Evaluation / Clinical Reporting: the role and responsibilities of the advanced practitioner

A patient managed by an advanced practitioner requires a report which has an understanding of their past medical history. The patient's report should describe clinical findings within the image and suggest a holistic and coherent management plan of the patient's clinical care. These steps should also be communicated to the wider multidisciplinary team (MDT)<sup>1</sup>

Image interpretation relies on a broader clinical foreground in a specialist area which may include many professional interactions with your peers. These interactions are governed by systems of work which encourage the advanced practitioner to take an integral role in patient centred care. Life long learning is a commitment undertaken by the advanced practitioner and involves giving and receiving peer feedback to enable safe systems of practice enabling quality patient experiences<sup>2</sup>.

This poster explores some of the key roles the advanced practitioner must employ when commenting or reporting on initial interpretation of images and the other responsibilities of their role as a clinician.



The advanced practitioner has a duty not only to their patients but to the wider service, ensuring service delivery meets the socio-economic demands of rising populations and the financial impacts this has on the wider healthcare setting.

A concise study has evidenced the financial worth of reporting advanced radiographers in a multi-site acute hospital setting, proving there is financial benefits to utilising radiographers in this role. However, this study emphasises the wider role of the advanced practitioner<sup>4</sup>.

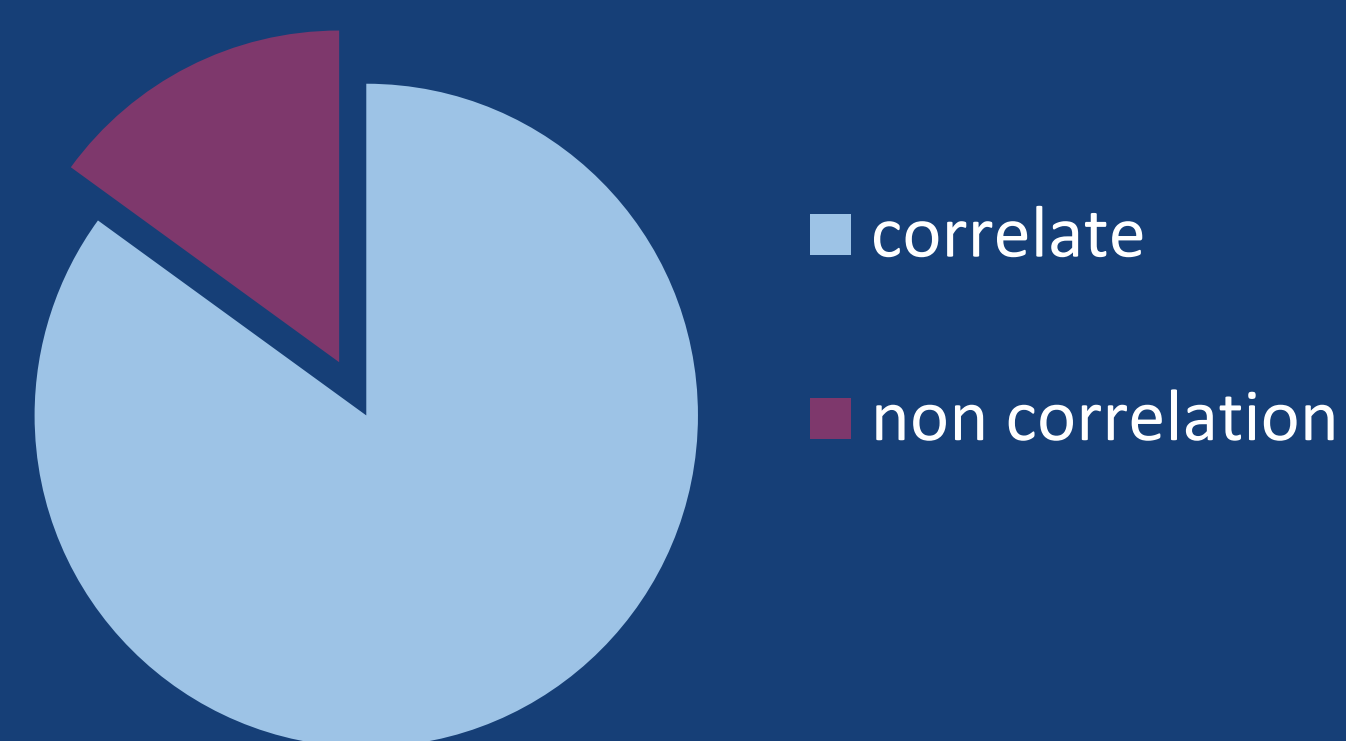
## "Why do we perform a clinical investigation?"

- "To alter patient management"
- "Turn a test result into action"<sup>2</sup>

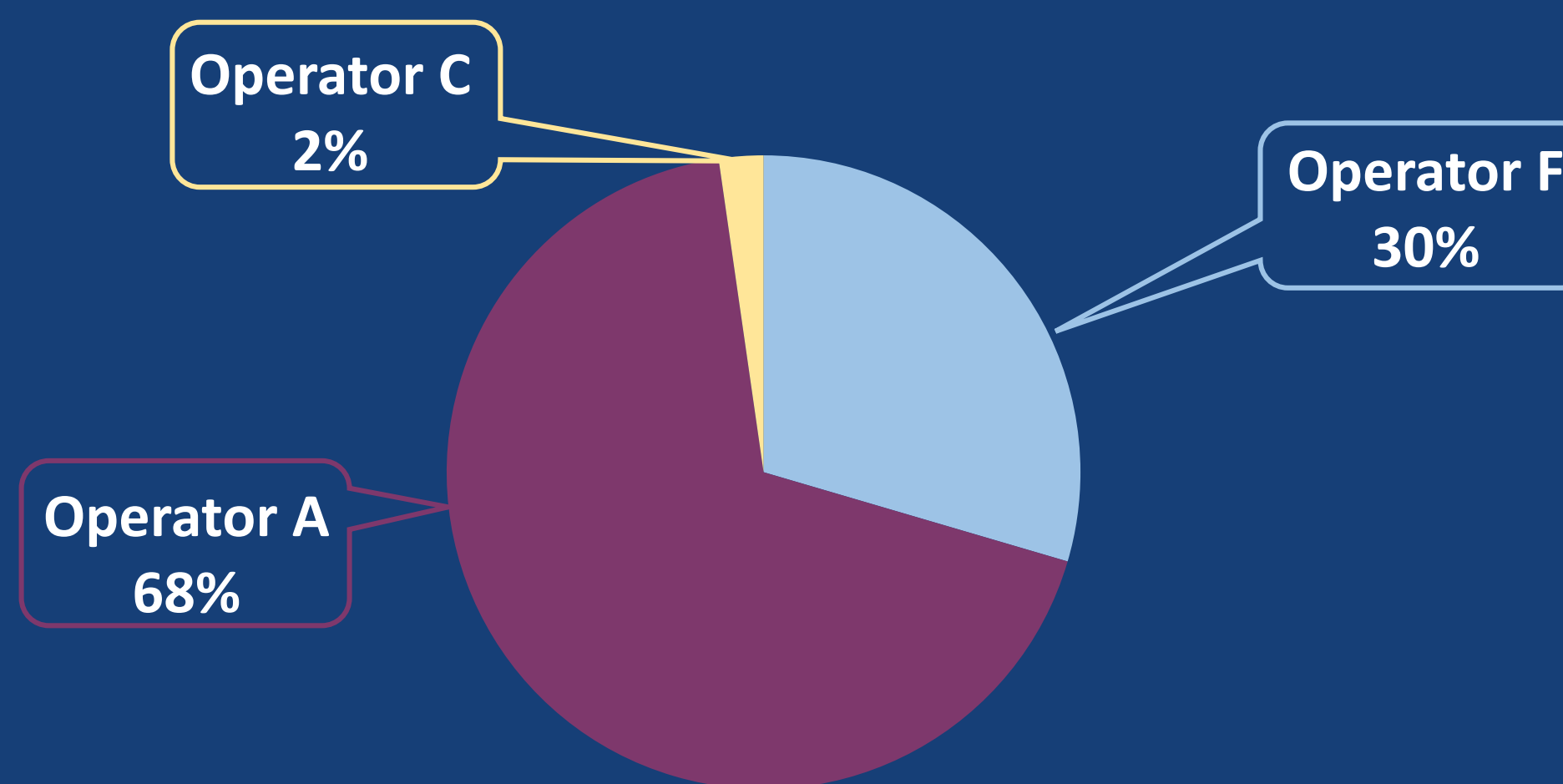
- Service sustainability, education to develop staff.
- Demonstrate leadership
- Adding value by means of research and lecturing.
- Strive for service improvement<sup>5</sup>

A small internal initial audit carried out by three practitioners, Nurse = F, Radiographer = A and Sonographer = C, demonstrating the percentage of procedures carried out by each practitioner and example of correlation between initial report and radiologist final report.

## Comparison and correlation of all initial evaluation versus formal report



## Breakdown of Operators and % Procedures



## The Three D's

- Describe
- Diagnose
- Direct<sup>3</sup>

- Reports produced by an advanced practitioner should be accurate, timely and answer the clinical questions.
- Clear communication and unambiguous terminology should be used.
- Review; prior imaging and pertinent studies should be taken into account and understood.
- A summary of key findings which is succinct should be given<sup>1</sup>.

## What skills should the advanced practitioner possess?

Role development in radiography represented a fundamental change to professional practise. Changes governed by professional codes of conduct allowed for progression of non-medically trained staff to undertake procedures previously not within their scope of practice and offer reports on the image findings. This represented the progression of evidence-based medicine integrating individual clinical expertise underpinned by research<sup>4</sup>.

An evaluative hierarchy can be used to assess radiographers technical competence using a search pattern comparable to an expert. This ensures their diagnostic performance is comparable with reference standards and outcomes improve a clinician's confidence and understanding. The image findings lead to optimum planning and delivery of treatment. In turn this improves the health of the patient and the cost is acceptable to the economy. It has been proven through red dot studies at triage within accident and emergency (A&E) departments radiographers already meet sensitivity and specificity levels of clinical reporting<sup>6</sup>

The roles and responsibilities of advanced practitioners including reporting radiographers are expanding. This expansion is to the advantage of the individual, the patient and to the health care system. Staff whom are satisfied in their role will provide a far more efficient service, both to the benefit of the patient and to the national health service.

