

NCCPM Summary Report

1st July 2021

1. NCCPM, PHE meetings with Manufacturers and suppliers

a) Meeting with Siemens – 17th December 2020

- Siemens have been offering training for radiographers, perhaps day training. Also a training course for radiologists to read tomosynthesis images is planned but has not yet gone ahead due to the pandemic.
- There have been discussions about the imaging of women with compressed breast thicknesses above 100mm with tomosynthesis. From national audit data the issue is likely to affect approximately 0.2% of the population. There have been no issues raised at the UK evaluation site or any of the clinical trials. Neither Siemens nor NCCPM have received complaints so we are considering the matter closed unless there is more information.
- Withdrawal of Microsoft support for Windows 7. The good news is that there is extended support for Siemens for Windows 7, however most of the Inspiration systems are run on Windows XP. These systems cannot be simply upgraded.

b) Meeting with GE – 14th January 2021

- GE intend to include more information in their handover form, following a number of minor issues.
- There have been a number of issues with cracked faceguards. GE stated that there is an improved design and it will be rolled out. This does not affect the service contracts and in the meantime GE are absorbing the costs for every replacement

c) Meeting with MIS - 15th March 2021

- The Giotto should be left on standby or it may take up to 3.5 hours to get the detector to the required temperature.

d) Meeting with Philips

- There have been issues in the attendance of service engineers. This was an issue during lockdown but has been resolved.
- The end of life dates for the Philips equipment are:
 - L30: the end of 2022
 - L50: in 2025.

e) Future meetings with suppliers

A meeting with Hologic will be arranged.

2. Technical evaluation reports:

All practical and technical evaluation reports are now on the NCCPM website. The NHSBSP will direct users to the correct website.

(a) Published since last summary

Published online as NCCPM reports:

- Hologic 3Dimensions contrast imaging,

- GE Pristina contrast imaging

(b) Reports submitted to PHE for review and publication

- None

(c) In preparation

- Update on Siemens Revelation for software version VC20

(d) Evaluations in progress/planned

- Request for contrast enhanced mammography from Siemens

3. Practical evaluations:

(a) Published since last meeting

- None

(b) Evaluations completed, reports being finalised/awaiting publication

- None

(c) Evaluations in progress

- None

(d) New Evaluations

- Hologic 3Dquorum: A technique of showing the tomosynthesis images as slabs, but where the slabs are created in a similar manner to synthetic 2D images using AI methods. This would be a practical evaluation.

4. Windows

Windows 7 is not being supported by Microsoft. X-ray systems often cannot be updated to Windows 10 without an update of hardware. Generally, this is not financially viable as the unit may only have a few years left in service. This change of windows version is always an issue for the NHS. In the case of mammographic equipment, systems should not be directly connected to the internet. The IT and PACS managers need to ensure that the firewall via PACS is secure. The risk is probably low, but there is a potential risk to the screening programme if a system is hacked.

To a certain extent this will always be a problem. Generally, manufacturers cannot simply change their system for a new version of windows. Therefore, systems sold will inevitably pass the date of support for their Windows platform. The information on the platform is available on the specifications from Supply Chain.

5. Online fault reporting

There are still a number of breast screening centres returning few or no faults. NCCPM has been contacting these centres. Generally, the problem is that staff have moved and not passed on the responsibility.

With the roll out of the KPI database, more physicists have access to the database and this will help ensure the accuracy of the equipment list on the database. In the next few months, all physics departments will have access. The 'fault database' has been rebranded as the 'Equipment database'. The web links used by radiographers has not changed and the radiographers should notice very little difference to the original fault

database.

NCCPM are currently undertaking a review of x-ray systems on the database. In addition to ensuring the accuracy of the data, we also asked for information on the use of tomosynthesis and the main use of the system (screening, assessment or both).

NCCPM have also been working with Prashant Verma on Ultrasound equipment. Currently, the list of ultrasound equipment is not complete on the database, and many fewer faults are fault recorded for ultrasound compared to x-ray systems. It is expected that this represents a gross under-reporting of issues.

6. Key Performance Indicators

The database for recording evidence that medical physics department are meeting the NHSBSP criteria has been rolled out to the majority of departments. This is the same database as the equipment database and access to part of the database will depend on access rights. The next stage is to get all physics services using the database.

We are looking at adding in ultrasound KPIs to the database.

7. Physics training

A proposal for the NHSBSP physics training meeting has been created. In summary the following is proposed:

Following in-depth discussion with committee, the proposal for the training will be:

- The basic training will be online only in January to March 2022
 - This will comprise talks, pre-recorded material and tutorials
- The aim is to hold the update day in person in March 2022.

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