

**Multi-professional Educational Templates for
Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI) and Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
from
Nuclear Medicine Education Committee Sub-group of BNMS Education**

Aim:

To establish the syllabus and evidence required to achieve an adequate level of knowledge in the selected topic area

Background:

The British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS) is the only national body/organisation that represents all professional groups involved in nuclear medicine. In 2002 a small group of BNMS members recognised the need for an educational course that could be distance based and apply to all professionals working in nuclear medicine.

Early work established that BNMS did not have the resources to undertake education itself, further that BNMS did not have the infrastructure to hold examinations nor give out certificates. The group recognised that the BNMS was not a higher educational institution and this placed certain constraints on what might be achieved. However the need for a multi-professional group to investigate what were the requirements and which professional groups within nuclear medicine were most in need was the starting point.

The small group formed in 2002 then expanded to have representation of all professional groups on an educational sub-group. This included IPeM (technologists & physicists), SCoR (radiographers & technologists), RCN (nurses), RCP/RCR (doctors) and radiopharmacists. The members of the group changed as different topics were discussed so membership was fluid. Co-opted onto the educational sub-group also included a representative of Skills for Health (SfH) The sub-group reported to the already existing Professional and Standards committee of the BNMS which now was renamed the PS&E committee.

From 2002 till the present time important political changes have taken place and the 'goal posts' have been moved on a number of occasions. Some bodies have disappeared (NHS University), new bodies have been created such as SfH. Other changes such as the introduction of National Occupational Standards (NOS) have been created and are themselves undergoing change now. SfH NOS undergo a review every five years and the latest versions are updated onto the Skills for Health website.

Representatives of the educational group have met with and continue to work alongside these and other relevant bodies.

Methods & Materials:

The group started with the intention of creating a multi-professional distance based interactive learning facility for nuclear medicine since there was no such facility at that time. Over the years and with pressure such as NOS, the NICE guidelines on myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI) and the creation of a UK PET-CT Advisory Board Role plus the independent sector contract to roll out PET-CT through-out England, the education sub-group decided to focus on MPI and PET-CT.

Educational templates as published in NMC

The Royal Colleges of Physicians and Radiologists focus on medical education and have the responsibility to ensure competence of relevant doctors, yet the BNMS has neither the facilities nor the support to undertake this responsibility of those health care professionals practising nuclear medicine. Instead the education sub-group has focused on producing the syllabus and evidence for competence in every aspect of MPI and PET-CT. This has been done from the point of view of what is required by a department undertaking nuclear medicine examinations and not based on any particular professional group. For that reason experts in each area were invited to join the education sub-group where they were aware that they represented their professional body and not themselves as individuals. Representation from SfH was also involved in putting the templates together. It was recognised that these educational templates represented the knowledge required but did not attempt to provide the experience. The experience would need to be acquired while working with patients undergoing nuclear medicine examinations.

The templates were constructed so that the health care science pathway work levels 1 to 9 were the basis of the template. The template also included knowledge and understanding as well as NOS for every activity.

During this work, the distance based IAEA technologists' educational material was made available to BNMS. This material was formally evaluated and found to be of the highest standard. Further the IAEA have given permission for any nuclear medicine department providing education in the UK to use the material which is now available from the BNMS through its website.

Output:

There are two templates one for MPI and the other for PET-CT available on the BNMS web site (www.bnms.org.uk). The IAEA distance based material is also available through BNMS.

Conclusion:

These templates have had significant input from 'Skills for Health'. These templates fit in well with the healthcare science career pathway and skills for health and could be used by other groups.

We would anticipate that these templates would inform both nuclear medicine departments and hospital managers wishing to set up a service. The templates could also be helpful when considering skill mix or the role extension for staff

The education sub-group of the PS&E committee of the BNMS feel that they have completed this stage of the educational program. This sub-group will disband once the work has been published.

Members of the Education sub-group:

The following have all contributed to the successful creation of the templates. Almost no-one has been present for all the meetings over the past 6 years. Rather many have added their knowledge and experience at the appropriate time.

James Bailey; Cedric Eustance; Mo Gardner; Isky Gordon; Peter Hogg; Ian Jones; Andrew Kelion; Mark Harbinson; Brian Hutton; Kate Latus; Michelle Logan; Paul Marsden; Julie Martin; Danny Mccool; Ken A Miles; James Reid; Jillian Riley; Christine

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Segasby;

Christine Taylor; Paula Todd; Ann Tweddel; Richard Underwood; Wendy Waddington;
Simon Woldman.

Current Members of the PS&E of BNMS 2008

Susan Clarke; Gary Cook; Bernadette Cronin; Ranju Dhawan; Isky Gordon; Claire
Greaves; Des Green; John Hall; Jonathan Hill; Andrew Hilson; Jackie James; Maria
Palmer; Alan Perkins; Heather Scicluna; Wendy Tindale, Christine Tonge; Gill Vivian