

Sectra Report Recommends Steps to Enhanced Radiologist / Referring Physician Communication

How radiology can
improve communication
with referring physicians

REPORT

A recently published study from Sectra analyses the views of 78 referring physicians and 78 radiologists on the method of study ordering and result communication.

With radiology being at the very centre of the healthcare chain it is evident that most patients will visit an imaging department at some point in their treatment. Subsequently, the ability of radiology to provide excellent service to referring physicians is paramount to an organisation's overall effectiveness. To answer the question of how this can be achieved was the report's aim.

The authors state that increased communication is seen as vital by both radiologists and referring physicians and suggests a number of means of increasing efficiency by improving both how studies are ordered and how results are communicated.

It also became evident that the views of referring physicians and radiologists differ, with the ordering of studies and communication of reports causing a greater challenge to referring physicians than to the radiologists.

Their responses can be recapitulated as follows:

- Implement decision support to increase the quality of the requests
- Increase transparency with regard to waiting times
- Make reports clearer by including images
- Improve the communication of critical results
- Implement a portal for easier scheduling
- Make radiation dose information visible in both the requests and the report

The full report is available on the [Sectra](#) website.

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