



A vision for clinical imaging in the UK

Statement by the Clinical Imaging Board

Clinical imaging has an increasing and vital role to play in the early diagnosis of treatable disease, and the monitoring of response to therapy. In addition, the use of imaging to exclude significant pathology is becoming more important with the drive to self-care and support outside hospital.

The shape of imaging services in the future will continue to be influenced by five key drivers:

- Demographics
- Changing expectations of the public and patients
- Healthcare advances
- Technological progress
- Economics.

The Clinical Imaging Board's vision of the potential of clinical imaging is focused on:

- **Patient-focused services** driven by patients' needs and expectations
- **Personalised diagnostic pathways** based on the individual patient's specific disease characteristics
- **Integrated services** combining prevention, screening, diagnosis and therapy with other services such as pathology and cancer therapy
- **Reduction in human error** through further use of technology
- **Reduction in radiation exposure** by new non-ionising techniques, improvements in technology and through maintaining excellent standards of professional practice
- **Improved evidence-based and standardised referral** for imaging tests – ensuring more effective use of resources
- **More standardised reporting** of tests, which would rely more on the manipulation of data than on pattern recognition.

To deliver this vision, the Clinical Imaging Board will:

1. **Respond to the public and health needs** – by creating a patient-centred service, optimising use of resources and adopting more flexible working patterns
2. **Collaborate with key stakeholders** – including new partnerships both clinical (such as pathology, cardiology) and non-clinical (for example, IT specialists, statisticians)
3. **Support innovation** – by increasing the research base not only within imaging, but also by developing closer links with other bodies and industry
4. **Promote appropriate funding** – to drive innovation and service efficiency with increased national support for research and the rollout of innovative techniques
5. **Ensure a sustainable workforce** – by promoting investment in training and recruitment.

Developing services in this way will lead to higher levels of service, better patient outcomes and a thriving and innovative group of professionals working in effective teams.