



Resuscitation Training for the Radiography Workforce

Responsible person: Tracy O'Regan

Published: Monday, March 31, 2014

Summary

SCoR publishes this statement to clarify the expectations of the professional body with regard to training in resuscitation. The subject was raised as a motion at the Annual Delegates Conference in 2013 and this statement is issued in response. The provision of resuscitation training is the responsibility of the employing authority and clearly the nature of training requires that it should be regular and include hands-on practical training for it to be effective.

Resuscitation Training

The Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) publishes this statement to clarify the expectations of the professional body with regard to training in resuscitation. The subject was raised as a motion at the Annual Delegates Conference in 2013 and this statement is issued in response.

The provision of resuscitation training is the responsibility of the employing authority and clearly the nature of training requires that it should be regular and include hands-on practical training for it to be effective.

The Resuscitation Council UK (RCUK) provides clear guidance on standards and expectations regarding training within its 2013 document *Quality standards for cardiopulmonary resuscitation practice and training: Acute care*¹ and SCoR supports these standards fully and without reservation..

RCUK's standards state that all healthcare staff must undergo resuscitation training to a level appropriate for the individual's expected clinical responsibilities at induction and at regular intervals thereafter to maintain knowledge and skills. Clinical staff should have at least annual updates. The training must include how to identify the patient whose condition is deteriorating and how to undertake cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Training and facilities must ensure that, when cardiorespiratory arrest occurs, all clinical staff can, as a minimum, recognise this condition, summon help, start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and attempt defibrillation, if appropriate, within three minutes of collapse using an automated external defibrillator or manual defibrillator. Organisations must recognise and make provision for staff to have enough time to train in resuscitation skills as part of their employment. Specific training for cardiorespiratory arrests in special circumstances (eg children, newborn, in pregnancy and in cases of trauma) must be provided for clinical staff in the relevant specialities.

The practice of radiographers and the wider radiography workforce brings them into constant contact on a daily basis with a large number of patients with diverse healthcare needs. Incidents requiring the radiography workforce to initiate cardiopulmonary resuscitation are not infrequent and it is vital that the workforce is thoroughly trained and regularly updated.

It is clear from the key guidance and standards^{2,3,4,5} from both the Health and Care Professions Council (as the regulatory body for radiographers) and the SCoR (as the professional body) that radiographers are expected to be able to use basic life support techniques and be able to deal safely with clinical emergencies. However, they must only do that which they have been educated and trained to do and hence they would be placed in an untenable position should a patient deteriorate and require resuscitation if they had not received the regular update training in resuscitation skills. Accordingly, SCoR will consider it a clear breach of an employer's duty if radiographers and the wider radiography workforce are not trained and regularly updated in resuscitation.

Motion No 28

Subject: Resuscitation Training for Radiographers must be Mandatory and be Protected from Cuts by Certain Trusts

As the austerity measures begin to hit hard, and NHS Trusts begin to contrive ways of cost cutting and penny-pinching, there are reports that some employers in the London area are ceasing resuscitation training for radiographers as they are not what are determined as 'high risk groups'. There are no Government guidelines to state what comprises mandatory training for all radiographers; it is up to the employer, but broadly speaking it refers to resuscitation, fire safety and moving and handling.

Budget pressures are leading to mandatory training being put on hold, or given priority to certain staff. Resuscitation training, as with all mandatory training, is essential and, by definition, compulsory. By allowing employers to cut mandatory training, the health and welfare of our patients is being put at risk. Resuscitation training for all frontline health workers is absolutely essential.

Conference calls upon UK Council to campaign to prevent cuts to mandatory training.

References

1. The Resuscitation Council UK Quality standards for cardiopulmonary resuscitation practice and training: Acute care London: Resuscitation UK, 2013

http://www.resus.org.uk/pages/OS CPR_Acute.htm#trainingStaff

2. The Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Proficiency – Radiographers London: HCPC, 2013

http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10000DBDStandards_of_Proficiency_Radiographers.pdf

3. The Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics London: HCPC, 2008

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/publications/standards/index.asp?id=38>

4. The Society and College of Radiographers Code of Professional Conduct London: SCoR, 2013

<http://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/code-professional-conduct>

5. The Society and College of Radiographers Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce. London: SCoR, 2013

Resuscitation Training for the Radiography Workforce

Published on Society of Radiographers (<https://www.sor.org>)

<http://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/education-and-career-framework-radiography-workforce>

(All web links accessed 27th March 2014)

Source URL:

<https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/resuscitation-training-radiography-workforce>