

Modified Delphi Study: UK DRAD Standardised Clinical Assessment Tool

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this Modified Delphi Study. Researchers at the University of Derby and Keele University are conducting this study to support the development of a standardised clinical assessment tool for pre-registration diagnostic radiography students in the UK.

Background

This project is a collaboration between University of Derby and Keele University, commissioned by the Society of Radiographers as part of NHS England Professional Bodies Education Reform Commission with funding from the Workforce, Training and Education Directorate NHS England.

The aim of this project is to develop a new, evidence-based standardised clinical assessment tool which could be used to assess all pre-registration diagnostic radiography students, irrespective of route (i.e. BSc / MSc Pre Registration / Apprenticeship). The project aim is underpinned by the following objectives:

- To undertake a systematic review of the literature pertaining to clinical assessment tools in pre-registration education for radiography, allied health professions, nursing and medicine - this has been completed and a report outlining the findings was submitted to the Society of Radiographers in September 2024.
- To scope status of current clinical assessment tools in pre-registration diagnostic radiography education, to provide recommendations to support further work in relation to consideration of a national standardised assessment for Diagnostic Radiography - this has been completed and a report outlining the findings was submitted to the Society of Radiographers in September 2024.
- To use the Delphi consensus process to develop a master document for a new standardised clinical assessment tool for pre-registration diagnostic radiography. The Delphi process will include key stakeholders (clinical partners, academic staff and current radiography students) - **this is the next stage which we would like you to participate.**
- To write and submit a final project report by **15th March 2025**.

We would like to invite you to be part of an expert group from across the UK consisting of key stakeholders (current students, clinical managers, and clinical and academic staff involved in pre-registration student education) to participate in this Modified Delphi study, to agree the content and wording of the standardised clinical assessment tool.

What will the Delphi study involve?

The Delphi method has been chosen for this stage of the standardisation project to agree the contents of a standardised clinical assessment tool. The Delphi method is a multistage consensus process in which individual opinions are sought and then combined to reach a group consensus. This is a Modified Delphi study ('modified' because it builds upon the outcomes of the scoping stage of the standardisation project). It will involve you taking part in 3 online surveys, and it is important for the Delphi research process that you are able to commit to taking part in all three rounds by completing all 3 surveys. The surveys will be run between now and February 2025.

At the beginning of each survey, we will ask you to confirm you have read this participant information and had a chance to ask any questions of the research team. You will then be asked to give your informed consent to take part in the study. We will also collect some basic demographic data and, at the start of the first survey, ask you to create a unique identification code to allow the identification of individual responses and enable the tracking of attrition at each round. The survey will start with instructions on how to complete the questions and then you will work through a series of qualitative and quantitative questions. The online survey will take approximately 30 - 40 minutes to complete. It is advised that you complete the survey in one sitting to avoid your response being lost or marked as incomplete by MS Forms. If you leave your browser open and don't clear your cache the form should stay as you left it if you need to take a break.

After each round, the data collected will be analysed and then during the next round you will be given a summary outlining how the group responded. We will notify you by email about the start of each round, which will include a link to the next survey. To keep this process moving, we plan to send reminders by email during each round. Due to the anonymity of responses, email reminders will be sent to all Delphi panellists, so if you have already completed the survey for that round, please ignore the reminder. Each Delphi round survey will be open for approximately 1 week.

Data collected during the study will be stored in a password protected file on the University of Derby's encrypted OneDrive system and only accessed by the research team. Your answers will be anonymised, and names and places mentioned in any answers will be changed to protect yours and others' anonymity in any reporting/publication of the study. Your participation is voluntary, and you are free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason. However, if you withdraw, we will still need to keep the data that we have already collected from you in the surveys as each individual response is analysed collectively with the other participants, and will inform the design of the next survey and the final study analyses.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Taking part in this study will require a time commitment from you of approximately ~2 hours, to complete 3x30 minute online surveys between now and February 2025. It is unlikely to happen, but if anything in the surveys or supporting forms bring up something sensitive or upsetting you can choose not to give it a score or you can discuss it with one of the researchers. There are no other expected disadvantages or risks to taking part in this study.

What are the potential benefits of taking part?

Data collected from this Delphi study will be used to support the development of a standardised clinical assessment tool for pre-registration diagnostic radiography students in the UK. It is expected that a standardised approach to clinical assessment processes will benefit students, clinical managers, and clinical and academic staff involved in pre-registration student education across the country, by ensuring a consistent approach to clinical assessment. All participants who complete all three questionnaire rounds will be invited to be recognised as a Delphi panellist in the study report and any associated publication, if you consent to be named (this will not affect the anonymity of your individual survey responses).

Who is conducting the study?

The data collection and analysis will be conducted by the project team who are based at the University of Derby and Keele University. The project team have worked closely with the project steering group in the design and development of the surveys and the analysis of the findings.

Who is funding the study?

This study is being funded by the Society of Radiographers, using funding from the NHS England Workforce, Training & Education Directorate.

Who has reviewed the study proposal?

This study proposal has been reviewed by the project steering group commissioners at Society of Radiographers, and University of Derby ethics committee. The study will be carried out following ethical principles outlined for all research carried out by the University of Derby and Keele University. The study has received ethical approval from the University of Derby: ETH2425-0298.

Will my taking part in the study be anonymous?

Your answers will be anonymised, and names and places mentioned in any quotations used will be changed. Any personal data collected during the study will be safeguarded during and after the study. Our procedures for handling, processing, storage and destruction of data follow the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. The data from the study will be stored online safely and securely. All data will be retained by the researchers for a minimum of 5 years from the end

of the study, with personal data destroyed before this. We retain the data for a minimum period of 5 years as this will be sufficient time to allow for follow up studies and allow time for the data associated with this study to be used in to pilot and evaluate the standardised clinical assessment tool. After such time it will be securely destroyed. Data will not be retained for longer than is necessary. If you contact the research team to withdraw, by providing your unique identifier code, your data will no longer be anonymous.

What will be done with the findings?

The data collected in the study will be analysed by the research team at the University of Derby and Keele University. A report will be written up and submitted to the Society of Radiographers and NHS England Workforce, Training & Education Directorate.

A summary report of the study findings will be shared with all participants upon completion.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the names contacts below:

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