

Department Accreditation and Clinical Standards Committee Report 2019/2020

Well what a different year we have all had!

Early on during the CV-19 pandemic it became apparent, from the number of queries sent to the BSE, that the Society needed to take a strong stance to protect both patients and our membership. A working group was rapidly convened, and guidance produced concerning the service provision of all forms of echocardiography. This work is ongoing and will be flexible according to how the disease develops. Grateful thanks to those members who took the time to feedback to the office regarding this guidance; its development has very much been an organic process and a time of great learning for us all.

In other news, following the major overhaul of our departmental accreditation standards last year, including the exciting addition of an emergency echo module, many sites have continued to show enthusiasm to obtain accreditation. Well done to the following departments who have achieved accreditation/reaccreditation since October 2019.

Accreditation:

- Addenbrookes
- Blackrock Clinic, Dublin
- London Bridge Hospital
- Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells
- Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland

Reaccreditation:

- HeartScan
- Kettering General Hospital

The development of the new BSE departmental accreditation website is nearly complete, with the Echo Quality Framework (EQF) component being worked on at present. Whilst this area is being constructed, we are gathering examples of best practice (e.g. audits, patient/customer satisfaction surveys, quality assurance processes and training materials) that will enable departments to get ideas that can be adapted to their own working environment. These documents will be made available on the information page of the EQF website in due course. If your department is willing to share examples of best practice then please contact us via the department accreditation address (dept@bsecho.org).

Once the EQF area of the BSE website has been launched all departments registered for accreditation will be able to upload their evidence of practice and obtain a certificate of achievement. This will in turn satisfy the quality assurance element of obtaining BSE departmental accreditation status. We look forwards to seeing the excellent work that everyone is doing to ensure continuous improvement in the echo services provided to our communities.

Back in the physical world, due to the CV-19 pandemic all departmental accreditation site visits are currently on hold. We are however hopeful that we will be up and running again soon, together with the new addition of a patient representative being part of the visiting

team! Those sites due for reaccreditation this year have been given a six-month extension to complete and submit their paperwork.

Lastly, a very big thank you to all of the team for the time and support they have given to Department Accreditation and Clinical Standards this year.

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