

**Title: Competency and Professional Advancement in Computed Tomography
(ComPACT)**

Researcher: Martine Harris

You are invited to take part in the above research project that is part of a PhD thesis being undertaken at the University of Bradford. This survey is designed for diagnostic radiographers to complete. To help you decide whether to participate, below is an overview of the study; please email me using the details at the end of this document if you would like to ask any questions.

Background

Standards and frameworks of competence, defined broadly as the ability to do, are central to assessing performance in practice and defining role accountability. Recently, functional or activity-based frameworks have been developed rather than those underpinned by attributes or skills. These frameworks are limited in demonstrating an individual's ability to cope with the changing environment, evolving roles, and the ethical demands of professional practice and capability has been offered as a more robust approach to defining the essentials of what a group of specialists do. There is little research which examines the knowledge, skills, and professionalism required of individuals entering and developing practice in Computed Tomography (CT) at NHS career level 4 or 5, and what developmental opportunities and expectations there are up to advanced levels of clinical practice and leadership (NHS career level 6, 7, 8 and beyond).

The aim of this study is to identify and gain consensus on appropriate practice competencies (including higher-level capabilities) for safe and effective CT services through a modified e-Delphi Study. The Delphi technique is a multi-staged survey, which attempts to achieve consensus on an important issue. With this method, group opinion is considered to be more valid and reliable than individual opinion.

Participant involvement

You have been invited to participate in the study as you are considered an expert in your field with an insight into the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed by Assistant Practitioners and **diagnostic radiographers** working in the CT environment. The research consists of two questionnaires (or rounds) administered through completion of an online form to achieve consensus on the competency and capability statements presented. Document analysis has shown

abundant professional competencies in public and professional body frameworks, so statements in the Delphi questionnaire focus on technical and clinical CT competencies not yet defined. These are regarded additional and complimentary to those expected by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). I want to find out your personal opinion on the expertise level you would expect or wish each item to be operational. This is not a survey of current CT roles so please disregard any progression or similar roles within your own department when answering the survey. Competencies and capabilities are considered accumulative; the anticipated result of this study will be a range of competencies with progression levels.

The amount of time necessary for each questionnaire should range from **approximately 45+ minutes for round 1** and **30+ minutes for round 2**. You can complete it at your leisure using the finish the survey later option at the bottom of the page. There are no right or wrong answers; this study is seeking your expert opinion. I hope you find the process and results interesting.

Please note: This invitation relates to participation in the second e-Delphi questionnaire. Some agreement has been gained in round one and feedback is provided. If you were unable to take part in round 1 (23 Nov 2020- 15 Jan 2021) this does not exclude you from participation in this round (03 Mar 2021- 14 Apr 2021).

Ethical Considerations

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, you have the right to decline or terminate participation at any stage without detriment. Basic information regarding education, CT experience, work setting, and geography will be collected to ensure comprehensive sampling. Any information that that you provide will be confidential, you will not be identified in the findings. Your name will not be recorded in any rounds; instead you will be allocated a unique code identifiable by the researcher. You will remain anonymous to other expert panel members for the duration of the study and only the researcher will be able to identify your responses. All electronic data will be stored on the University drive, password protected, and will only be accessed by the researcher. We will seek to publish the results of this study in a peer-review journal. As this study is part of a doctoral research project, an ethics panel at the University of Bradford has assessed the proposed research and provided a favourable opinion.

If you have any questions, please email the researcher m.a.harris@bradford.ac.uk. For concerns or complaints about this survey please email the primary academic supervisor m.l.hardy1@bradford.ac.uk who will direct you to further support if required.

Thank you for your time and any help that you may be able to offer this study.