

Quality Standard for Imaging Networks



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Introduction and context

Introduction

Put simply, networks are a group or system of interconnected people or things. They can play many roles in healthcare delivery: driving change and collaboration across complex organisational structures; enabling the best service for patients and staff, and uniting professionals with common clinical interests.

Networks, if effectively supported and harnessed, can offer solutions to tackling systemic and complex problems faced by an NHS beholden to financial pressures and chronic staff shortages.

The Quality Standard for Imaging Networks (QSIN) is consistent with the national direction to develop imaging networks. Imaging networks have been developed throughout the UK with 22 network regions in England, five in Scotland and one network each for Northern Ireland and Wales. An imaging network may also be formed by

a company to oversee all the imaging departments it has or an informal group of imaging entities who want to form a network.

Although these imaging network quality standards have been published independently from the [Quality Standard for Imaging 2021 \(QSI 2021\)](#), it is envisaged that, as imaging networks develop, the QSIN will be an integral part of the QSI.

The QSIN is made up of a number of quality statements which are aimed to complement QSI 2021.

Scope of the Quality Standard for Imaging Networks

The QSIN is written to stand alone; and emerging or nascent networks can use it as part of an internal quality improvement programme. All processes developed for quality improvement should be embedded and in routine use to achieve a culture of quality. While led from the top of the service, a culture of quality is everyone's responsibility.

These standards are designed to encourage all services to become part of an imaging network, with the benefits of mutual support and learning this brings.

The QSIN will be reviewed and refreshed regularly in line with QSI.

Aims

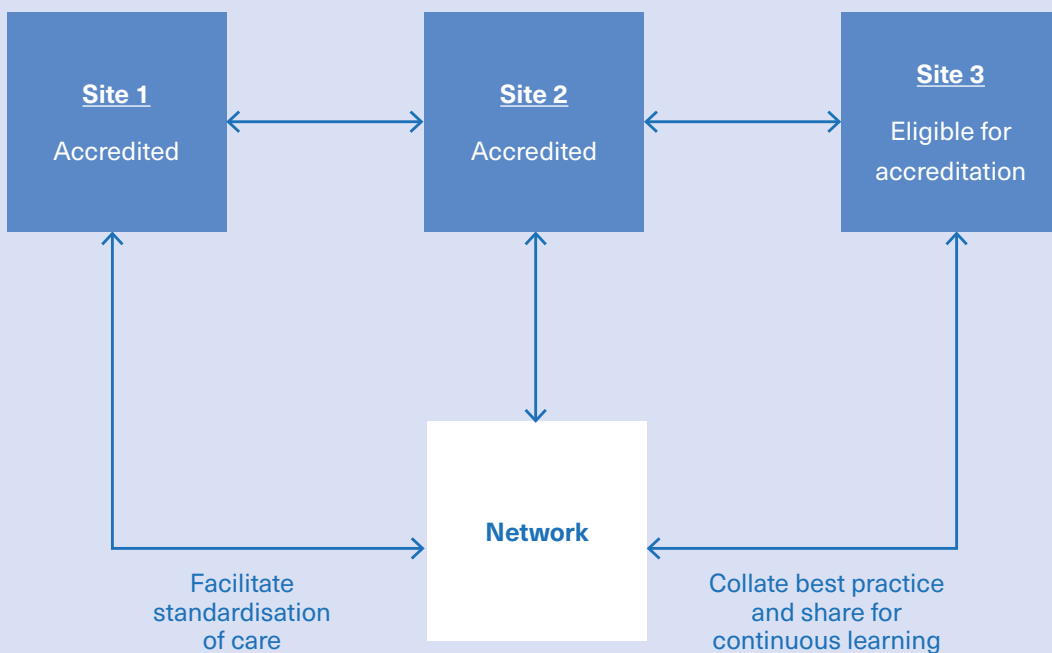
The Quality Standard for Imaging Networks (QSIN) is designed to encourage all services to become part of an imaging network, with the benefits of mutual support and learning this brings. It aims to help both existing and emerging networks drive forward quality improvement across multiple sites for the benefit of patients. It requires a culture of quality and vision for best practice.

Implementation of these standards could take several different forms:

1

Bottom up:

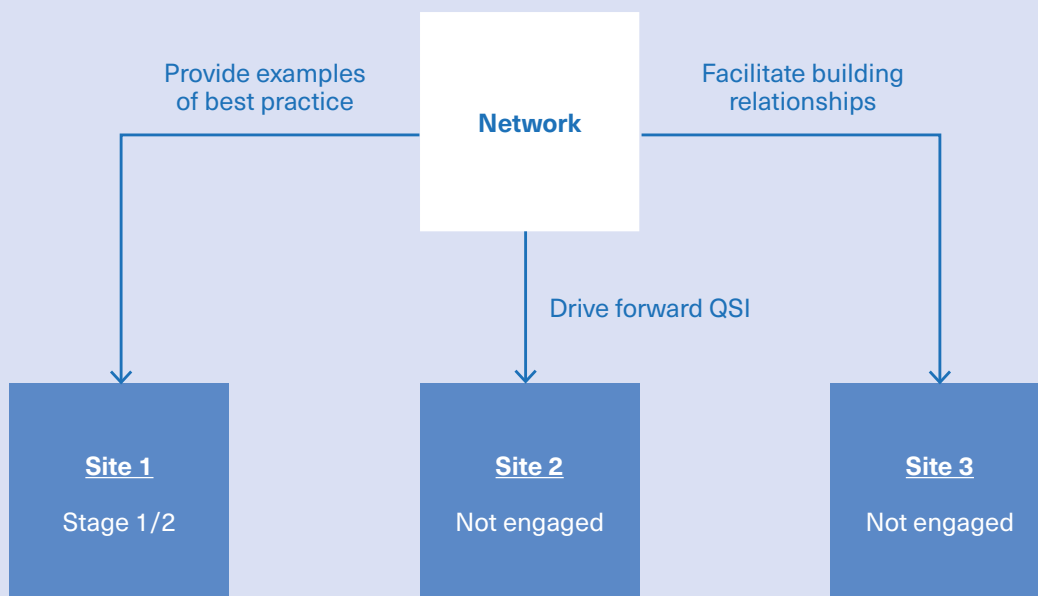
Where most sites within the network are already [QSI](#) accredited or eligible for accreditation. The network will collate and share best practice across all sites and facilitate standardisation of practice. This will ensure the best possible service for patients and smooth transition of care between the sites.



2

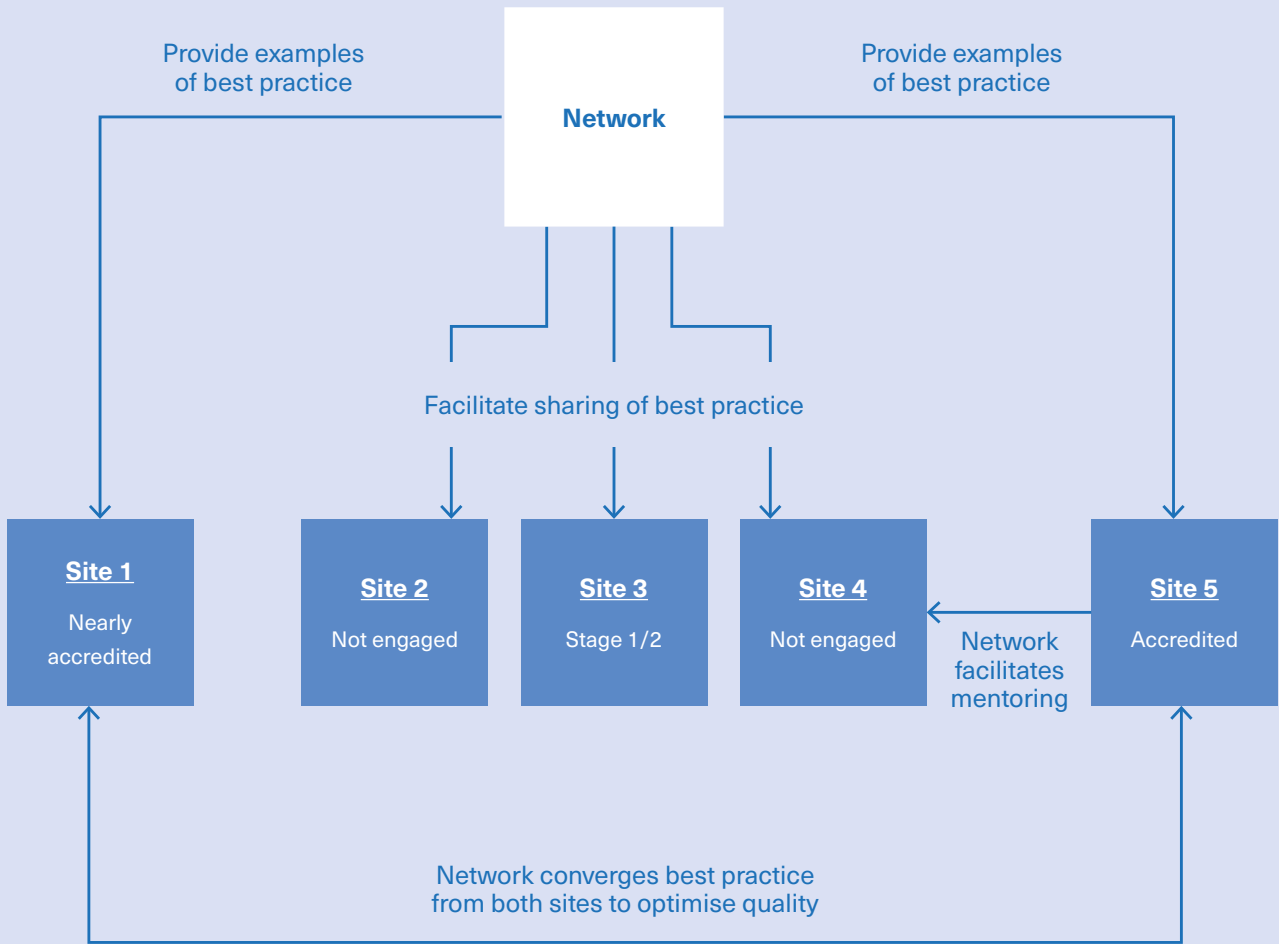
Top down:

Where most, if not all sites, are yet to engage with QSI. The network can provide leadership and support to sites to start their QSI journey and implement examples of best practice. They can facilitate relationships with QSI accredited sites/networks.



3 Mixed engagement:

Some sites have engaged with QSI and are at various stages of the journey, as well as some sites yet to engage at all. The network will facilitate the sharing of best practice and identify ways to standardise care across sites. They can facilitate mentor relationships between sites to help each other progress through QSI.



QSI leads

We recommend that every site designates a QSI lead to coordinate and drive forward the work to meet the QSI. Networks may choose to appoint a supplementary QSI lead or utilise one of the existing site leads to act as a liaison between sites and coordinate work for the network standards. This will be dependent on local circumstances and available resources. However, it is important that the leads are not overburdened and that there is buy-in from all staff to facilitate quality improvement.

Definitions

The term used continuously throughout the QSI in respect of a person attending for an imaging investigation, examination or study is 'patient'. Someone who attends with a patient to provide support is referred to as the patient's 'carer', and this term will also include a patient's representative. In some other specialties and guidance, the term 'service user' is often used to refer to a patient, but in imaging services, the term 'service user' can also be used in respect of a clinician making a referral. The terms 'patient' and 'carer' are therefore used to avoid doubt.

In these standards the term 'clinician' is used in the widest context to mean an appropriately clinically qualified person. It may therefore include radiographic and nursing staff and is not restricted to medical staff.

Quality Standard (QS)

Each standard describes the service quality required in the quality statement.

Quality statement

A required or agreed definition of quality to be achieved. A quality statement must be unambiguous, objective and measurable.

Audit

Frequency of audit is not stated, but audits should be sufficiently frequent to provide assurance for the service.

Guideline

This sets out recommendations for best practice in a particular process or application. Written by professional bodies or similar organisations of high regard, guidelines should have been peer reviewed. Guidelines are not mandatory, but they reflect the professionally agreed best practice. Clinical guidelines do not replace professional judgement and discretion.

Protocol

A document laying down in precise detail the tests or steps that must be performed. Agreed by the service or organisation, it provides direction for the healthcare professional. Note that within the *Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017/2018 (IR(ME)R)* the term 'protocol' has a very distinct meaning. In this QS, the term protocol is used in its non-IR(ME)R context.

Policy

This sets out the service expectation and organisational mandatory requirements for areas of practice or approaches. A policy is formally agreed by the service or provider governance processes.

Pathway

This describes the multidisciplinary approach for patients, usually in a disease-specific care journey. Often accompanied by a visual graphic that is easy to follow, it should encompass a journey of care for a patient group. Multiple guidelines, policies and protocols may sit within one pathway of care.

Standard operating procedure (SOP)

A document that sets out in a step-by-step approach the way the organisation expects a procedure, protocol or process to be followed.

Imaging procedure

For the purposes of this standard, the term imaging procedure is used throughout the document. This could refer to the whole process in its entirety from referral to production of report. Services should interpret the term in context with the particular quality statement and service that they deliver.

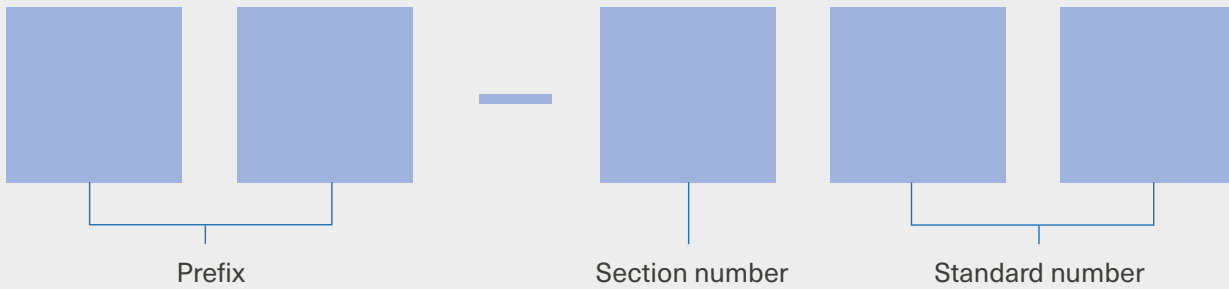
Terms of Reference (ToR)

A document which defines the purpose and structure of the network, see IN-201 for more guidance.

Structure of the Quality Standard

Quality Standards Reference Structure

Quality standard reference numbers have the following structure:



Each standard is structured as follows:

Reference number (Ref)	This column contains a unique reference number for each quality statement and is used for all cross-referencing.
Quality standard (QS)	<p>Standard name This describes how the quality statement will be known.</p> <p>Quality statement The quality statement describes the service quality required.</p> <p>Outcome measure The outcome measure describes the expected high-quality achievement.</p> <p>Indicative inputs The indicative inputs describe what a service should do to achieve the QS</p> <hr/> <p>Notes: <i>The notes give more detail about either the interpretation or the applicability of the quality standard. The notes are prompts designed for the review team, the service and stakeholders.</i></p>

Service Letters

These quality statements use the pathway letters **IN**, and the sections cover the following topics:

IN-	Imaging Network
IN-1	Involving Patients and Carers
IN-2	Workforce
IN-3	Network Equipment and Procurement
IN-5	Guidelines
IN-6	Network Organisation
IN-7	Network Assurance

Imaging Network Quality Standard

Involving Patients and Carers

Ref	Standard
IN-101	<p data-bbox="395 479 815 517">Involving Patients and Carers</p> <p data-bbox="395 535 624 566">Quality statement</p> <p data-bbox="395 573 1182 604">Patients and carers are involved in the work of the imaging network.</p> <p data-bbox="395 647 632 678">Outcome measure</p> <p data-bbox="395 685 1075 754">The network can demonstrate impact as a result of patient partnerships and patient involvement.</p> <p data-bbox="395 797 608 828">Indicative inputs</p> <ul data-bbox="395 835 1362 1417" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="395 835 1262 866">– A network policy on patient and service partnerships should be in place. <li data-bbox="395 896 1209 927">– The network should focus more on co-production than on approval. <li data-bbox="395 956 727 987">– The network should have: <ul data-bbox="427 1001 1362 1314" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="427 1001 1142 1106">a. Mechanisms for receiving regular feedback from patients and carers about the treatment and care they receive from all participating organisations across the network <li data-bbox="427 1122 1214 1191">b. Mechanisms for involving patients and carers in decisions about the organisation of imaging services across the network <li data-bbox="427 1207 1153 1276">c. Examples of changes made as a result of the feedback and involvement of patients and carers from across the network <li data-bbox="427 1292 1362 1323">d. Documentary evidence of patient and carer involvement at network meetings <li data-bbox="395 1352 1193 1417">– Patients and carers should be supported by the network to ensure the opportunity and benefit of their involvement is maximised. <p data-bbox="395 1485 483 1516">Notes:</p> <ol data-bbox="395 1523 1401 1895" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="395 1523 1214 1592">1. <i>The arrangements for receiving feedback from patients and carers may involve surveys, focus groups or other arrangements.</i> <li data-bbox="395 1615 1401 1715">2. <i>Patient and carer involvement within the network improves decision-making and enables the network to better understand population health needs and to respond to what matters most to people who need, use and care about health services.</i> <li data-bbox="395 1738 1385 1807">3. <i>The impact demonstrated will show that patients' views have been taken into consideration and evaluated, this may not necessarily result in change occurring.</i> <li data-bbox="395 1830 1378 1895">4. <i>A lay representative could sit on the network board, but this is not a requirement. The network may choose to consult their individual trust lay bodies.</i>

Workforce									
Ref	Standard								
IN-201	<p>Network Leadership</p> <p>Quality statement The leadership of the network is clearly identified.</p> <p>Outcome measure The network has an organisational structure naming the individuals who hold leadership roles.</p> <p>Indicative inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The network should have network lead roles which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clinical radiologist lead b. Professional radiographer lead c. Lead Medical Physics Expert (MPE)/Radiation Protection Advisor (RPA) d. Lead manager e. Radiology nurse lead f. PACS/IT lead g. Commissioner - An executive lead from the sponsoring or host organisation should be part of the network board. - The network must establish terms of reference. <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Network leads are not expected to be full-time roles but should have agreed job descriptions and sufficient time within their job plan for their role within the network.</i> 2. <i>Leads should be formally appointed. Transparency in appointment to network posts by the host organisation should be evident.</i> 3. <i>Terms of reference should include:</i> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><i>a. Purpose and objectives</i></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><i>e. Responsibilities</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>b. Network membership</i></td> <td><i>f. Delegating tasks and powers</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>c. Decision-making</i></td> <td><i>g. Reporting and monitoring</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>d. Meetings</i></td> <td><i>h. Review by the board</i></td> </tr> </table> 4. <i>The executive lead from the host organisation will play a key role in ensuring the network is part of a wider healthcare system approach.</i> 	<i>a. Purpose and objectives</i>	<i>e. Responsibilities</i>	<i>b. Network membership</i>	<i>f. Delegating tasks and powers</i>	<i>c. Decision-making</i>	<i>g. Reporting and monitoring</i>	<i>d. Meetings</i>	<i>h. Review by the board</i>
<i>a. Purpose and objectives</i>	<i>e. Responsibilities</i>								
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<i>d. Meetings</i>	<i>h. Review by the board</i>								

Workforce	
Ref	Standard
IN-202	<p>Education and Development</p> <p>Quality statement An agreed network programme of education and development is in place.</p> <p>Outcome measure The network can demonstrate that there is a multidisciplinary education and development programme agreed by the network.</p> <p>Indicative inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There should be evidence of an agreed network-wide programme of multidisciplinary education and development. – The education and development programme should be reviewed annually to ensure it is consistent with the needs of the network member organisations. – Attendance lists at education and development programmes should be maintained. Attendance levels should be reviewed by the network and equity of access ensured. – Evaluation of programmes should be undertaken. <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>This QS also links to Quality Standard for Imaging XR-204 and XR-704 and can be used as part of a service's compliance with these Qs.</i> 2. <i>The design and content of the programme are not subject to review, other than to ensure that the programme is consistent with the network's stated requirements and individuals' own professional development requirements.</i> 3. <i>Networks should work closely with imaging academies to provide training where appropriate.</i>

Workforce	
Ref	Standard
IN-203	<p>Workforce Strategy</p> <p>Quality statement An agreed network workforce strategy is in place.</p> <p>Outcome measure The network can demonstrate that there is an agreed network workforce strategy (linked to the demand and capacity plan (IN-602)) which is evaluated regularly.</p> <p>Indicative inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workforce strategy should be clearly described. - The strategy should be developed with all members of the network. - The strategy should address as a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recruitment, retention and demand requirements b. Development of extended roles c. Options for implementing flexible working arrangements between different providers organisations in the network - The strategy should consider place of work, including remote or homeworking if relevant, and include access to workstations and technology. - Network meeting minutes/notes should be distributed to members of the network. - There should be an action plan for delivery of the strategy, including timeframes for completion. The action plan should include progress on deliverables and be reviewed regularly. - Workforce plans should demonstrate a link to education and training providers, such as imaging academies, where appropriate. <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Future plans should consider the likely requirements for a five-year period.</i> 2. <i>The workforce action plan should demonstrate progress made. The existence of an action plan without progression is not sufficient to meet this QS.</i> 3. www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/B0418_Diagnostic-imaging-network-workforce-guidance_April-2022.pdf 4. <i>For implementing flexible working (indicative input C.) reviewers may wish to consider a 'Staff Passport' similar to the Digital staff passport - NHS Transformation Directorate (england.nhs.uk).</i>

Network Equipment and Procurement

Ref	Standard
IN-301	<p data-bbox="397 479 815 517">Equipment and Procurement</p> <p data-bbox="397 535 624 566">Quality statement</p> <p data-bbox="397 573 1286 604">Imaging equipment is available to meet the needs of the network population.</p> <p data-bbox="397 647 632 678">Outcome measure</p> <p data-bbox="397 685 1342 790">The network can demonstrate imaging equipment within the network is sufficient to deliver the expected number of diagnostic and interventional procedures for the usual case mix of patients in the network within expected timescales.</p> <p data-bbox="397 833 608 864">Indicative inputs</p> <ul data-bbox="397 871 1329 1648" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="397 871 1174 943">– All Imaging assets with the network are procured collaboratively demonstrating economies of scale can be utilised <li data-bbox="397 949 1147 981">– An agreed imaging network asset ownership policy is in place <li data-bbox="397 987 1114 1059">– There is a network owned asset register and a network risk register with regards to imaging equipment <li data-bbox="397 1066 1198 1137">– There is an imaging asset replacement programme with indicative dates. There should be an agreed network disposal programme. <li data-bbox="397 1144 1211 1256">– There should be a network agreed risk management plan of imaging equipment used beyond its replacement date. This should link to the risk register and replacement programme. <li data-bbox="397 1263 1310 1294">– There should be streamlining of IT systems to ensure effective collaboration. <li data-bbox="397 1301 1289 1413">– An agreement for the management of network owned imaging equipment with all services within the network including their maintenance, breakdown plans and monitoring of failures and faults. <li data-bbox="397 1420 1329 1648">– Equipment management records should be kept by the network covering as a minimum: <ol data-bbox="427 1525 1329 1648" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="427 1525 1329 1556">a. Procurement and management of imaging equipment across the network. <li data-bbox="427 1563 879 1594">b. Installation acceptance and testing. <li data-bbox="427 1601 1094 1648">c. Calibration, operation and maintenance of equipment.

Network Equipment and Procurement

Ref	Standard
IN-301 (cont)	Notes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="395 517 1278 589">1. <i>This QS is to ensure collaboration between services within a network to ensure that patients experience reduced delays and cancellations.</i><li data-bbox="395 607 1190 678">2. <i>Where networks own equipment QSI standards XR-301; XR-302; XR-303 and XR-401 should be consulted and adhered to.</i><li data-bbox="395 696 1114 768">3. <i>Where equipment is on the risk register there should be a plan to rectify the situation as soon as possible.</i><li data-bbox="395 786 1278 857">4. <i>Reviewers should discuss with the services the sustainability and environmental impact of equipment and facilities' purchasing decisions.</i>

Guidelines	
Ref	Standard
IN-501	<p>Network-wide Clinical Guidelines</p> <p>Quality statement Agreed network clinical guidelines are in place.</p> <p>Outcome measure Guidelines covering a range of common pathways or processes are agreed for use in services across the network.</p> <p>Indicative inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Network clinical guidelines should include but not be limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Referral management b. Common referral pathways c. Image optimisation d. Image reporting e. Access to specialised services f. Community diagnostic centres g. Ionising and non-ionising radiation safety - There should be evidence of network meeting minutes, showing that guidelines have been agreed, reviewed and distributed. - The agreed network guidelines should be audited to demonstrate compliance (QS IN-702). - There is a strategy for implementing machine learning algorithms across the network. - Artificial intelligence (AI) should be implemented and managed using agreed policies and procedures across the whole network. <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Guidelines/protocols should be based on national guidance and the commissioned local pathways. Implementation of these guidelines at local level is covered in the QSI 2021 (QS XR-501 to XR-517 and the Modality Standards).</i> 2. <i>The development of guidance and protocols agreed across the network reduces variation in practice and supports system information sharing.</i>

Network Organisation	
Ref	Standard
IN-601	<p>Network Organisation</p> <p>Quality statement The network has defined governance arrangements in place.</p> <p>Outcome measure An imaging network is in place with defined governance arrangements to ensure network business can be addressed.</p> <p>Indicative inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – An imaging network (see note 1) consisting of representatives from imaging services, commissioners and other key stakeholders should meet regularly to discuss latest national guidance, opportunities for joint working locally, service provision and learning. – A clear accountability framework and risk management mechanism, including meeting structure, should be in place for reporting at network executive level. – There should be agreed hosting arrangements for the network. – The network should have an annually agreed programme of work. – Terms of reference (ToR) for the network board and subgroups should be agreed, including the quorum for meetings agreed by the network membership. – There should be arrangements for liaising with local care systems. – There should be arrangements for liaising with disease-specific clinical networks locally and regionally. – There should be evidence of meeting agendas and notes, and distribution arrangements. <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>A network is made up of the network board and delegated groups responsible to the network board.</i> 2. <i>The network ToR should outline how meetings are hosted and how often meetings are held, but the frequency of meetings is less important than the quality of discussion.</i> 3. <i>All imaging services within the network area, whether they are NHS or independent sector providers and regardless of the size of the service, should be included (or at least invited to participate).</i> 4. <i>It is encouraged that a patient or lay person is included in the governance structure. (IN-101)</i> 5. <i>NHS England guidance for commercial structure and operational governance: www.england.nhs.uk/publication/diagnostic-imaging-network-commercial-structure-and-operational-governance-guide/</i>

Network Organisation

Ref	Standard
IN-602	<p data-bbox="397 486 1002 521">Network Capacity and Demand Evaluation</p> <p data-bbox="397 542 624 573">Quality statement</p> <p data-bbox="397 580 1326 611">There is formal capacity and demand modelling for services across the network.</p> <p data-bbox="397 656 632 687">Outcome measure</p> <p data-bbox="397 694 1031 761">There is an agreed capacity and demand plan which is evaluated regularly at network meetings.</p> <p data-bbox="397 804 608 835">Indicative inputs</p> <ul data-bbox="397 842 1436 1552" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="397 842 1436 909">– There should be an agreed plan that identifies the current and future capacity and demand for services across the network, including diagnostic centres, where appropriate. <li data-bbox="397 938 1214 1005">– The capacity and demand plan should include details of equipment, workforce and reporting requirements across the network. <li data-bbox="397 1034 1042 1102">– Notes from network meetings, where these plans are discussed, should be shared with network members. <li data-bbox="397 1131 1161 1238">– The network should have assessed its informatics capability to inform the evaluation, and ensure it has access to individuals or a team with the appropriate competencies. (See note 3) <li data-bbox="397 1267 1043 1335">– Plans should consider both the requirements and the impact on delivery models across the network. <li data-bbox="397 1364 1166 1395">– Plans should demonstrate a link to workforce plans (QS IN-203). <li data-bbox="397 1424 1246 1491">– Patients should be an integral part of developing capacity and demand plans, especially with regards to future requirements (QS IN-101). <li data-bbox="397 1520 1249 1552">– Plans should consider referral pathways for rarer or complex pathways. <p data-bbox="397 1628 480 1659">Notes:</p> <ol data-bbox="397 1666 1326 2092" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="397 1666 1118 1697">1. <i>The evaluation schedule should be determined in the ToR.</i> <li data-bbox="397 1718 1310 1861">2. <i>Capacity and demand should be determined using a recognised model such as NHS England: www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/demand-and-capacity/models/ and tool kit: www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/demand-and-capacity/models/diagnostic-imaging-capacity-and-demand-tool/</i> <li data-bbox="397 1881 1326 1948">3. <i>Capacity and demand plans should be more than the sum of current activity and should consider the likely requirements for a five-year period.</i> <li data-bbox="397 1968 1203 2036">4. <i>Appropriate competencies may be achieved by bringing together individuals from more than one provider organisation.</i> <li data-bbox="397 2056 895 2092">5. <i>Equipment includes IT and AI. (IN-301)</i>

Network Organisation	
Ref	Standard
IN-603	<p>Service Development and Improvement Plan</p> <p>Quality statement There is a five-year development and improvement plan in place.</p> <p>Outcome measure The network is able to demonstrate improvements in service provision over the five years.</p> <p>Indicative inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The network should be able to demonstrate an agreed development and improvement plan that sets out its programme. – The network should be able to demonstrate how the five-year plan aligns with the network provider organisations' long-term delivery plans. – The service development and improvement plan should be aligned to the workforce and capacity and demand plans (QS IN-203 and IN-602). – The network has clearly defined vision and set of values. <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewers should ask about the process of developing this plan. 2. Reviewers should ask about the engagement of patients and their carers in the development of the plan (QS IN-101). 3. Reference QSI 2021 five-year plan XR-605. 4. Vision and values should be embedded into the Network Leadership. (IN-201)

Network Assurance

Ref	Standard
IN-701	<p data-bbox="397 483 829 517">Network Review and Learning</p> <p data-bbox="397 539 624 568">Quality statement</p> <p data-bbox="397 577 1050 607">Network review and learning arrangements are in place.</p> <p data-bbox="397 651 632 680">Outcome measure</p> <p data-bbox="397 689 1321 719">The network can demonstrate changes made as a result of review and learning.</p> <p data-bbox="397 763 608 792">Indicative inputs</p> <ul data-bbox="397 801 1445 1442" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="397 801 1062 869">– Review and learning should involve all the professional disciplines associated with imaging. <li data-bbox="397 898 1278 965">– Improvements made or changes to services as a result of shared learning should be clearly communicated to all provider organisations. <li data-bbox="397 994 1398 1272">– Representatives of providers within the network should meet at least once a year to: <ol data-bbox="427 1032 1294 1272" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="427 1032 1098 1099">a. Identify any changes needed to network-wide policies, procedures and guidelines (QS IN-501) <li data-bbox="427 1115 1294 1144">b. Review results of audits undertaken and agree action plans (QS IN-702) <li data-bbox="427 1160 1054 1227">c. Review and agree learning from positive feedback, complaints, critical incidents and ‘near misses’ <li data-bbox="427 1243 1123 1272">d. Share good practice and potential service improvements <li data-bbox="397 1317 1018 1384">– The network should be able to demonstrate a clear process for review of these measures. <li data-bbox="397 1413 1445 1442">– There should be a link to other service improvement analysis, feedback and information. <p data-bbox="397 1570 480 1599">Notes:</p> <ol data-bbox="397 1608 1342 1995" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="397 1608 1129 1637">1. <i>The aim of this QS is to drive up quality across the network.</i> <li data-bbox="397 1659 1342 1727">2. <i>Networks may communicate the review and learning outcomes in a variety of formats such as but not limited to newsletters, ezines, posters and websites.</i> <li data-bbox="397 1749 1066 1816">3. <i>Reviewers will want to ensure the learning and review sessions are multidisciplinary/multi-professional.</i> <li data-bbox="397 1839 1161 1906">4. <i>It is encouraged that patients and/or lay representatives input into the network review and learning process.</i> <li data-bbox="397 1928 1254 1995">5. <i>Network review and learning meetings should address areas in which collaboration between provider organisation is necessary.</i>

Network Assurance	
Ref	Standard
IN-702	<p>Network Audit</p> <p>Quality statement A defined rolling programme of audit as appropriate for the network is in place.</p> <p>Outcome measure The network can demonstrate improvements in care and outcomes as a result of ongoing audit.</p> <p>Indicative inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The rolling programme should ensure that action plans are developed following audits and that their implementation is monitored. – Results of the network audit programme should be shared with the providers and stakeholders within the network. <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewers should enquire about the multidisciplinary nature of audit programmes. 2. Audits should relate to the guidelines in QS IN-501. 3. Reviewers should test whether staff who do not attend audit presentations can access the results and learning from audit meetings. 4. A selection of recommended clinical audits is given at www.rcr.ac.uk/clinical-radiology/audit-and-qi/auditlive 5. The audit programme will depend on the maturity and responsibility of the network.

Network Assurance

Ref	Standard
IN-703	<p data-bbox="397 488 815 521">Research within the Network</p> <p data-bbox="397 544 624 575">Quality statement</p> <p data-bbox="397 582 1230 613">A portfolio of clinical trials and research activities is held by the network.</p> <p data-bbox="397 658 632 687">Outcome measure</p> <p data-bbox="397 694 1118 761">The network has an agreed research policy that identifies how shared or joint research programmes can be implemented.</p> <p data-bbox="397 806 608 837">Indicative inputs</p> <ul data-bbox="397 844 1347 1321" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="397 844 1318 875">– The network should have a list of applicable trials and research programmes. <li data-bbox="397 904 1002 1016">– The research portfolio should have considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="427 943 1002 974">a. common research themes across the network <li data-bbox="427 987 826 1016">b. the use of AI in clinical settings <li data-bbox="397 1061 1347 1128">– There should be evidence that new research opportunities, as well as ongoing research programmes, are discussed and communicated to network members. <li data-bbox="397 1158 1150 1225">– The network should be able to demonstrate a multidisciplinary approach to research and clinical trials. <li data-bbox="397 1254 1230 1321">– The network should consider how the patient and carer input into the network (QS IN-101) also contributes to the research strategy. <p data-bbox="397 1606 480 1637">Notes:</p> <ol data-bbox="397 1644 1278 1890" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="397 1644 1278 1756">1. <i>The quality or type of research is not subject to review, other than the requirements that it is designed to answer important clinical question(s) and involves more than one network member organisation.</i> <li data-bbox="397 1771 1050 1839">2. <i>The network should encourage research in its wider sense in all its provider organisations.</i> <li data-bbox="397 1854 1002 1890">3. <i>Confidentiality and GDPR should be adhered to.</i>

APPENDIX

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations for QSI and QSIN

Advocacy	Advocacy means to speak up for someone. It is about making things change because people's voices are heard and listened to. It's about making sure that people can make their own choices in life and have the chance to be as independent as they want to be.
ARSAC	Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee. ARSAC advises the licensing authorities on applications from practitioners, employers and researchers who want to use radioactive substances on people.
Artificial intelligence	AI is computer software that mimics the ways that humans think in order to perform complex tasks.
BI	Background information to review team. (Identified evidence sources within the QSI).
BMUS	British Medical Ultrasound Society.
Carer	Throughout the quality statements the term 'carer' applies to both family carers and paid carers or support workers.
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group.
CNR	Case note review or clinical observation. (Identified evidence sources within the QSI).
COR	College of Radiographers. The professional arm of the Society and College of Radiographers.
CQC	The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and social care in England.
DEXA	Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry. A bone density scan using X-rays.
DH	Department of Health.
Doc	Documentation should be available. Documentation may be in the form of a website or other social media. (Identified evidence sources within the QSI).
EASR	Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018.
eGFR	Estimated glomerular filtration rate. A test to measure renal function.
Freedom To Speak Up Guardian	Independent support and advice to staff who want to raise concerns.
HCPC	Health and Care Professions Council. The HCPC has four main functions. In the context of this document, the main function is to keep a register of professionals, known as 'registrants' who meet the required standard.
HSIB	Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch. Conducts independent investigations of patient safety concerns in NHS-funded care across England.

APPENDIX

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations for QSI and QSIN

IPEM	Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine.
IR(ME)R	The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017 and the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (NI) 2018.
IRR	Ionising Radiation Regulations.
Machine Learning	Machine learning is a subset of AI that uses algorithms and technologies to enable systems to identify patterns, make decisions, and improve themselves through experience and data.
MDT	Multidisciplinary Team.
MP&S	Meeting patients, carers and staff. (Identified evidence sources within the QSI).
MPE	Medical physics expert. An individual having the knowledge, training and experience to act or give advice on matters relating to radiation physics applied to medical exposure.
MHRA	The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. It regulates medicines, medical devices and blood components for transfusion in the UK.
MRRP	Magnetic resonance responsible person. Day-to-day responsibility for safety. Provides continuity and consistency for the ongoing safe working practices of the department.
MRSE	Magnetic resonance safety expert. Provides scientific advice to MR units including advising and monitoring of local safety procedures. Usually a medical physicist who is a HCPC registered clinical scientist.
Network	A group of organisations working together and sharing experiences and learning for a common purpose. Each organisation remains independent from each other for its accountability and corporate governance.
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.
PACS	Picture archiving and communication system. At its basic level, it is a system for storing and managing digital images. See also RIS.
PGD	Patient group direction. Written instructions for a qualified healthcare professional to supply or administer medicines to patients.
Projectile zone	An area around a magnet within the MR unit where there is a risk arising from ferromagnetic portable objects becoming attracted by the magnet.
Provider	A health or social care organisation which provides services to patients.

APPENDIX

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations for QSI and QSIN

QRS	Quality review service.
QS	Quality statement.
RCR	Royal College of Radiologists.
RIS	Radiology information systems. A networked software system for managing medical images and associated data. See also PACS.
RPA	Radiation protection adviser. Competent to advise employers on the safe and compliant use of Ionising Radiations. The post is a legally recognised position and is a requirement of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017.
RWA	Radioactive waste adviser. A specialist in radioactive waste disposal and environmental radiation protection.

Find out more

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