

AUSTRALIAN HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES

Presentation



10 FEBRUARY 2006

Presentation Outline

1. What's the project about?
2. Why the project came about?
3. Scope of the project
4. How is the project being undertaken?
5. What's happened to date?
6. Key findings and issues
7. Where are we now?

1. What's the Project About?

Establishing uniform best practice professional supervision and related reporting standards for services provided by radiologists, incorporating the specific requirements of teleradiology.

2. Why the Project Came About?

- Identified as a priority under the QUDI program
- Concerns by RANZCR, Radiologists, DoHA and HIC in relation to:
 - Current regulatory provisions
 - Reporting results of an examination
 - Emerging role of teleradiology
 - Monitoring compliance with current professional supervision requirements

3. Scope of the Project

- Imaging services within the scope of the Radiology Quality and Outlays MoU (June 2003)
- Includes diagnostic radiology, CT, ultrasound (exceptions) and MRI
- Excludes obstetric and gynaecological ultrasound, certain cardiac angiography items, nuclear medicine and interventional radiology

4. How is Project Being Undertaken?

Two broad stages:

1. Scoping Study
2. Standards Development and Testing

5. What's Happened to Date?

- Reviewed and appraised current MBS arrangements
- Literature review and scan of current and emerging developments and trends - including arrangements overseas
- Reviewed key documents and reports

5. What's Happened to Date?

- Canvassed views of TRG, Chief Medical Advisor, Industry representatives, DoHA, HIC, ASA, ASUM, ADIA, ANZSNM and AIR
- Prepared Discussion Paper
- Received feedback from interested parties regarding discussion paper
- Commenced standards development process using input of a specially formed Standards Working Group (SWG)

6. Key Findings and Issues

- A. Supervision and reporting is central to what radiologists do
 - Defining the role of radiologists was an intrinsic first step to the project

6. Key Findings and Issues

- B. A range of issues identified in relation to current Medicare arrangements:
- Lack of clarity - difficult to understand what is meant by various terms e.g. *'available to monitor and influence'*
 - Need to standardise terminology - terms for supervision (general, personal and direct) often used interchangeably creating confusion
 - Relevance in light of developments in knowledge, technology and practice e.g. MSK U/S, also issues about teleradiology
 - Lack of focus on reporting side - a need for standards regarding good practice in reporting and supervision

6. Key Findings and Issues

- c. Additional requirements imposed through State/Territory radiation protection framework
 - Limited knowledge of these requirements by stakeholders
 - Supervision requirements imposed through standard conditions placed on licenses issued to radiologists, radiographers or on the registration of radiating apparatus
 - example: registration of CT scanners in Victoria

6. Key Findings and Issues

D. Overseas developments:

- A range of approaches
- Quality systems and accreditation based approaches
- Guidelines and standards of professional bodies
- Requirements for reimbursement, including highly specific rules, eg - US Medicare.

6. Key Findings and Issues

E. Teleradiology:

- Has a number of potential roles in diagnostic imaging:
 - Services in rural/remote areas
 - Emergency or after hours reporting/interpretation
 - Economies of scale and service efficiencies
 - Facilitate Sub-specialty advice
 - Access to second opinion

6. Key Findings and Issues

E. Teleradiology (cont):

- Must be delivered within the regulatory framework and technical standards currently being considered
- First develop supervision and reporting standards then look at implications for teleradiology in terms of each potential role for the technology
- Consider exemption(s) from supervision rules where benefits to patients exceed risks

6. Key Findings and Issues

- F. Range of comments received from interested parties in relation to Discussion Paper:
- General agreement regarding thrust and direction of project
 - Concerns about scope of project
 - Issues regarding the evidence base for new Standards

7. Where Are We Now?

- Embarked upon Standards development process
- Established a Standards Working Group
- A challenging phase - a risk management approach is appropriate, however a number of difficult questions to be worked through:
 - Standards by modality or body system or a combination of both?
 - Content, format and fit within existing accreditation standards?
 - A set of rules or part of a broader quality approach?