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The views of radiology service managers concerning professionalism and the ability of newly qualified graduate radiographers to cope with working in contemporary clinical contexts

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Background The findings reported in this poster emerge from a broader project which mapped the views of radiology service managers in the UK concerning the 'fitness for purpose' of diagnostic radiography graduates.

Method In line with the conventional methods of Straussian Grounded Theory, N=20 Radiology Department leads in the United Kingdom, working within NHS Trusts (N=19) and independent provision (N=1), were interviewed. All interviews were semistructured, conducted and recorded by telephone and transcribed verbatim.

Results A major theme emerging from the data concerned the ability of graduates to cope and with demands of working in the modern NHS. Conflicts related to motivation, role expectations and the graduate's ability to maintain their professional responsibilities were highlighted as issues which impacted upon their roles. Concerns were also raised into the ability of graduates to communicate effectively and to be cognisant of the potential consequences of poor communication upon efficient working and complaints.

Conclusion There was widespread dissatisfaction with the capability of graduates to fulfil key functions within their wider role beyond the technical aspects of clinical imaging. Issues related to the capabilities and expectations of the current generation of students applying for radiography programmes could stem from wider socioeconomic changes in society and the marketisation of education. This has implications for education providers in relation the design of curricula and programme delivery. It is argued that different approaches are now required which align professional and service requirements with the values of a new generation of students.

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