



The Royal College of Radiologists

35 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1B 1JQ
T: 020 7636 4432 F: 020 7323 3100
enquiries@rcr.ac.uk www.rcr.ac.uk

*From the Office of the President
Dr Jane Barrett BSc FRCP FRCR*

Consultation on charter of patient rights and responsibilities

We are pleased to offer comments on the draft Charter.

For the most part, we have no detailed comments, but we are concerned that little thought appears to have been given in regard to cross-border health services.

For example, Scottish patients who require access to imaging services from English healthcare organisations do not appear to have been considered. It is not clear in the Charter how individuals who live near the border and who opt for secondary or tertiary care in England having been referred from Scottish primary healthcare services will be supported. Will the Charter ensure that patient record and imaging technologies and systems are compatible with the Scottish NHS? There are multiple problems in England because of the incompatibility of imaging systems and it is important that this issue is addressed so that images and reports can be accessed within the Scottish NHS both in secondary and primary care.

Another example arises when an individual is a temporary resident in England, but wishes to remain in contact with his/her Scottish primary healthcare services. He or she may move between secondary and tertiary centres. How will this be addressed if Scotland and England continue to pursue different healthcare information systems?

We hope that these issues will be addressed and made clear for all Scottish healthcare users before the Charter is approved and issued.