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Raising concerns in diagnostic imaging

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Statement of the Problem: Whistleblowing and raising concerns has been in the public eye in the UK since the release of the Francis report into the major failings at the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. Whilst many major reports have outlined how the failings came about and what changes need to be made, there is still little known about the state of care in diagnostic imaging departments.

Methodology & Theoretical: A literature review of the culture for raising concerns in diagnostic imaging was undertaken. A review of literature written about raising concerns in diagnostic imaging focused around 4 key areas; culture, leadership, education and what can be learnt from large scale reports. Where there is a lack of reliable, published literature in radiography, sources from across health care have been used.

Findings: Themes coming through are that, a culture of blame or the fear of punishment even if this is not actually the case still exists in some cases. There is a lack of national learning from errors in diagnostic radiography and a failure to share this across the profession. Although there is a focus on improving quality of care there is a lack of an evidence base in radiography. There is little primary research on raising concerns and what impact education and leadership in radiography has on this.

Conclusion & Significance: There is little published in UK radiography on the culture around raising concerns, learning from mistakes and staff confidence levels in doing this. It is unknown how much goes un-reported in radiography, what clinical radiographers feel about whistleblowing, self-reporting and raising concerns about others.

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