

Rapid Diagnostic Pathways – Challenges and Opportunities

Rapid Diagnostic Pathways were under development in the UK pre the COVID-19 pandemic but, certainly, the health crisis and pressures in acute services have heighten the need for swifter diagnosis and streamlined services. Keeping our patients safe is a priority; managing pathways outside of acute trusts and within community diagnostic hubs and rapid diagnostic centres is one way of achieving this goal. Any diagnostic pathway will require an element of imaging but understanding which modality is appropriate, and the role that ultrasound can play, is essential in the development of services. There is a significant opportunity for ultrasound services to be transformed, but clear challenges in terms of skill mix and staffing. This presentation provides an overview of the rapid diagnostic pathway in the UK and where ultrasound can be used to add value and improved patient care