

## **Interim report to the College of radiographers-June 2020**

**Project title:**- What training in difficult news delivery do sonographers have and what impact do sonographers who regularly deliver difficult news think this has on their levels of wellbeing and burnout? (CoRIPS 129)

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The project comprised of two phases:

### **Phase one**

The first phase involved an online survey which was advertised to UK sonographers and gathered information regarding sonographer experiences of difficult news delivery, training and wellbeing. We received ethical approval for phase one on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016 from the Faculty of Medicine Research Ethics Committee at the University of Leeds

This phase has been completed.

The initial survey results were presented at the BMUS Obstetric Study day on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017. A paper outlining the findings was accepted for publication by Ultrasound in November 2018 and published on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Please see <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1742271X18816535#:~:text=Background,sonographer%20experiences%20of%20this%20training.>

### **Phase two**

Ethical approval for this research was granted by the School of Psychology Research Ethics Committee at the University of Leeds, England (reference: PSC-175 05-December 2017).

### **Method**

This qualitative study aimed to explore two key aspects around sonographers' practise of delivering difficult or unexpected news: their experience of delivering news and the impact this has on them, and their experiences and preferences around training for delivering difficult news (hereafter referred to as DDN).

### **Sample**

Sonographers who had participated in the first phase of the research that had agreed to be contacted regarding phase two (n=65) were invited by email to participate. Fourteen participants took part in the study and were sent the research information sheet, the interview questions, consent form and a debrief sheet.

### **Data collection**

In-depth semi-structured qualitative interviews were conducted via telephone and audio-recorded, transcribed and anonymised. Transcripts were analysed independently by authors Jane Arezina and Natasha Hardicre (who also listened to all audio recordings to become familiar with the data).

Analysis used an inductive thematic approach. Coding involved reading and rereading the transcripts, identifying key ideas (about experiences of DDN and training) emerging from the data, and sorting these ideas into categories according to similarity and difference. These initial categories were then expanded and/or reduced to create themes and sub-themes. Emerging codes and themes were discussed by Jane Arezina, Natasha Hardicre and Judith Johnson to reach consensus.

## **Results**

The main themes that arose from the interviews with sonographers were about i) managing the patient encounter, ii) managing themselves, and iii) the importance of relationships with peers.

We are in the process of completing the write up of phase 2 of the research project. We are planning of submitting this to Radiography in the near future.

10<sup>th</sup> June 2020