INDEPENDENT SONOGRAPHERS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

HELEN FRENCH

LOCUM AND AGENCY WORK Changing ways of providing services.

Providers are seeking sonographers from the small pool of qualified staff.

Working a few extra hours to boost employed income?

Moving away from employed income to self employment?

HOW WILL YOU BE EMPLOYED? Self employed

Employed

Limited company

Umbrella company

HOW WILL YOU BE INSURED?

KEY QUESTIONS What are the working hours

Will you have a helper

Appointment times

Second opinion?

What scanners do they use

Triage

Is the place of work CQC registered

INDUCTION



- Clinical Protocols
- Local Policies
- Reporting processes
- Management of Urgent findings
- Data management / Storing of images



EMPLOYERS ROLE

- Ensure new starters understand departmental guidelines.
- Are familiarized with equipment to be used.
- Audit work in the first few weeks.
- Assigned mentor for support and guidance.
- Mandatory training.
- Check competencies.



PRIVATE BABY SCANS

- SoR document 'Competencies for Ultrasound Practice in Private Baby Scan Clinics'
- 2017 the SoR changed their group insurance cover.
- Are you doing diagnostic scans, souvenir scans or both?
- Where do we sit as professional sonographers in this environment?
- What is clinically expected of you
- What is in your patient registration / disclaimer

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?SOME CASE SCENARIOS

Community sonographer reported 'Unable to obtain flow in the portal vein'. Did this get reported according to the local protocol?

Not demonstrating an absent CSP on a 'Souvenier scan'.

No saved images / only undiagnostic thermal images.

Not sending a report. Resulting in delayed diagnosis and death.