



# CoR Accreditation and Professional Indemnity Insurance for Assistant Practitioners & Mammography Associates



## CoR Accreditation

The College of Radiographers offers a number of voluntary accreditation schemes, including accreditation of assistant practitioners and mammography associates.

CoR accreditation is an outward sign that successful applicants have met the professional body's expectations for their level of practice. The assistant practitioner and mammography associate accreditation schemes seek to promote consistency in the education and development of the support workforce and encourage ongoing engagement with continued professional development through re-accreditation every two years. They therefore provide assurance to the public and employers that accredited members of the schemes are continuing to engage in CPD activities which are appropriate to the individual's role and are of benefit to service users and/or service delivery.

Accredited assistant practitioners and mammography associates who are SoR members will be eligible to participate in the SoR's Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) Scheme.

The PII Scheme will cover accredited assistant practitioners and mammography associates for the scope of practice for which they have been awarded accreditation i.e. for which they can demonstrate they have been appropriately education & trained and can evidence fulfilment of the requirements of the accreditation scheme. All participants of the PII Scheme must be working under a contract of employment. Further details can be found in the section on [Accreditation and Professional Indemnity Insurance \(PII\)](#).

It is the individual's responsibility to ensure they hold accreditation against their current scope of practice and seek re-accreditation when there is an extension/addition to their scope of practice. Any work undertaken deemed to be outside of an individual's agreed written scope of practice held by their employer and accredited by the CoR, will not be covered under the PII scheme.

## Public Voluntary Register of Accredited Assistant Practitioners (PVRAAP)

The Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR), in upholding its duty to the public, has implemented a [Public Voluntary Register of Accredited Assistant Practitioners \(PVRAAP\)](#). Assistant practitioners and mammography associates can apply for accreditation against their scope of practice on the basis of having successfully completed an appropriate course of education and training. The PVRAAP, along with the accreditation process, have been developed to ensure that those engaged in clinical imaging or radiotherapy at this level of practice have been appropriately educated and trained for their role and are actively maintaining their continuing professional development.

For assistant practitioner and mammography associates, those awarded CoR accreditation will be eligible to be listed on the PVRAAP for a period of two years, during which time they may identify themselves as a CoR Accredited Assistant Practitioner or CoR Accredited Mammography Associate. After which time, participants who wish to remain accredited and remain on the PVRAAP will need to apply for re-accreditation.

**Those who do not apply for re-accreditation will be automatically removed from the PVRAAP on their re-accreditation due date.**

**Failure to seek re-accreditation within 3 months of an individual's re-accreditation due date will result in a downgrade in membership category to 'Radiographic Assistant'. This also has implications for the individual's level of professional indemnity insurance cover as detailed below.** However, re-accreditation may be sought at any stage after this, but it and the level of PII cover will not be continuous.

Re-accreditation must demonstrate evidence of continuing professional development relevant to the individual's scope of practice.

In addition, those who are members of SoR must also remain in SoR membership for the duration of their accreditation period for accreditation to remain valid.

## Accreditation and Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII)

Since January 2013, all members who identify themselves to be assistant practitioners have been asked to apply for accreditation to avail of the SoR Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) Scheme. Those who do not hold accreditation will be informed that their membership status will be annotated as 'Radiographic Assistant.' This applies to mammography associates with effect from January 2023.

It is the responsibility of the individual assistant practitioner/mammography associate to remain in accreditation to therefore maintain their level of cover through the SoR PII Scheme.

Where an individual does not seek re-accreditation, and their current accreditation lapses, their membership category will be downgraded to radiographic assistant after a period of 3 months from their re-accreditation date. This will see their level of PII cover drop to that required to cover the scope of practice of a radiographic assistant only. Any work undertaken beyond a scope of practice deemed to be applicable for a radiographic assistant will not be covered.

As of 1st October 2017, the SoR PII Scheme only applies where there is a contract of employment in place and the employer has vicarious liability for the member as an employee. There are various scenarios where a claim will impact directly on the employee:

- An employer can choose to 'join' the employee in an action that has been brought against them. If this occurs the member must inform the SoR immediately.
- The claimant may sue the employee separately and/or in addition to the employer. In this case the provision of the SoR PII Scheme will apply.

This means the SoR's PII policy provides a secondary level of insurance that supports the employer's legal obligation to indemnify its employees. Therefore, the SoR's insurance is personal to the member, and thus should be of no interest to an employer. Potential employers/agencies should not ask SoR members for proof of their indemnity, and it is illegal to ask them to provide proof of their membership of the Society and/or to refuse them work unless they comply. Please alert us if you are asked for this information.

It is very important that members are clear about their employment status as it is their responsibility to make themselves familiar with the policy provision and be certain they are insured. The following requirements apply in the event of a claim:

- The claimant must be in membership both at the time of an incident and that of the resulting claim.
- The member must be working under a contract of employment.
- The member must be working within their Scope of Practice\* and in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct.

\* Scope of Practice for which accreditation has been awarded for Assistant Practitioners/Mammography Associates

If there is an accident/incident at work that results in patient injury or complaint or may possibly lead to a patient claim, contact [PII@sor.org](mailto:PII@sor.org) as soon as possible.

Further details on the PII scheme, the level of cover provided, and what to do in the event of an accident or incident at work can be found [here](#).