



Introduction

AXREM is the UK trade association representing the suppliers of diagnostic medical imaging, radiotherapy, healthcare IT and care equipment in the UK.

Imaging modalities represented include X-Ray, Fluoroscopy, Angiography, Cardiac Cath Labs, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine, Mammography, Computed Tomography, PET CT and Magnetic Resonance Imaging and systems used for Precision Radiation Medicine such as Linear Accelerators. We also represent suppliers of IT systems used to view, manipulate, and report on the imaging and data obtained such as Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS), Radiology Information Systems (RIS), Vendor Neutral Archives (VNA), Advanced Post Processing Solutions, Radiotherapy Planning Software and Artificial Intelligence.

AXREM members supply most diagnostic medical imaging and radiotherapy equipment installed in UK hospitals. In doing so, our member companies and their employees work side by side with Radiologists, Radiographers and Practitioners, Cardiologists, Interventionalists, Oncologists, Physicists, and a wide range of healthcare professionals to deliver excellence in patient care using our technologies, working to regulated standards whilst continuously developing and creating innovative new solutions.

AXREM consults with a wide range of stakeholders including clinicians, government, procurement organisations, professional bodies, and NHS bodies. Members' products and solutions create efficiencies in patient pathways, improve clinical outcomes and in turn deliver value-based healthcare.

AXREM's critical role in diagnosing and treating disease



AXREM members technologies play a critical role in the diagnosing and treatment of disease. Any patient visiting an Accident & Emergency Department will have experienced AXREM members technologies as they play a key role in the triage and diagnosing of injuries and disease. Through provision of diagnostic equipment such as Computed Tomography (CT) Scanners, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Ultrasound, Digital X-Ray and Image Guided Therapy solutions (Interventional and cardiac catheterisation).

AXREM members solutions provide insight to clinicians and are pivotal to diagnosis, treatment choices and plans. Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography (PET CT), Linear Accelerators (LINACs) and Proton Beam Therapy are used in the staging and delivery of radiotherapy treatment to Oncology patients and are critical to improving cancer outcomes. Imaging IT Solutions such as PACS, RIS and Archiving aided

by Artificial Intelligence provide the backbone for Diagnostic and Treatment planning, pulling together imaging and information and making them immediately available for access by clinicians and health professionals across the healthcare enterprise.

AXREM members technology features in most patient care pathways and thus sit at the core of the Health & Care Act 2022 which builds on the proposals for legislative change set out by NHS England in its Long-Term Plan. AXREM members technologies also play a primary role in screening programmes such as the Breast Screening Programme and Targeted Lung Health Check. Access to and availability of AXREM members technology to healthcare providers is crucial in achieving positive healthcare outcomes and making a positive contribution to the health of the nation.



AXREM has identified five strategic priorities for the period 2022 to 2024 which have a direct impact on healthcare delivery:

Recovery from Covid backlog

Influencing future healthcare delivery

Sustainability

Credentialling

Cyber Security

Recovery from Covid backlog

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented demand on healthcare systems throughout the world. In the UK, the impact has been particularly acute on Diagnostic and Treatment services, adding further stress to an already chronically underfunded service where the UK regularly features at the wrong end of the scale on international measures such as number of scanners per head of population, average age of scanning technology, accessibility to Radiotherapy and waiting times. AXREM welcomes the findings and recommendations of Professor Sir Mike Richards review: “Diagnostics: Recovery and Renewal: Report of the Independent Review of Diagnostic Services for NHS England (October 2020)” which references the need for radical investment and reform of diagnostic services that

was recognised at the time the NHS Long Term Plan was published in 2019.

The recommendations of the report will require significant funding and whilst initial funding has been identified, the sustainable long-term investment required to deliver such transformative change remains unclear.

AXREM members are already providing technology, workflow solutions and innovation to assist the NHS and Independent Healthcare Providers tackle the backlog in Diagnostic procedures and treatment and stand ready to support increased demand for Diagnostics as the latent demand for cancer referrals during the pandemic becomes increasingly transparent.

Influencing future healthcare delivery

AXREM's mission is 'To bring our industry leading expertise and technology together to improve the effectiveness of healthcare delivery and ultimately the health of the nation'.

Member companies have the solutions and expertise available to achieve this mission; to transform healthcare delivery and improve outcomes through innovation, digitisation, automation, clinical decision support tools, smart workflow solutions and artificial intelligence. We wish to see sustained long-term investment to achieve this mission and that healthcare providers engage with our membership through procurement activities and processes that are inclusive, open, fair, transparent and timely.

AXREM collaborates and works with a wide range of stakeholders and bodies to achieve our vision including:

- British Institute of Radiology (BIR)
- The National Imaging Board
- Royal College of Radiologists (RCR)
- Society and College of Radiographers (SCOR)
- Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM)
- Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
- NHS England & Improvement, NHS Digital, Supply Chain Coordination Limited (SCCL) and NHS Supply Chain



AXREM will continue with and expand this collaborative work to include Med Tech forums, direct engagement with the Department of Health in England and in the devolved nations, engage with healthcare policy makers and participate in relevant All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs).



Sustainability

The impact human activity is having on our planet was brought into sharp focus at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) held in Glasgow in November 2021. There is a clear and urgent need to act to minimise the impact AXREM members products and services have on the environment and to support actions to assist in the achievement of the global targets set at the Paris Climate Change Conference in December 2015 and reinforced at COP 26 to limit global temperature rises to 1.5%. Reducing the amount of CO2 we produce is key to delivering this target and with healthcare contributing up to 4% of the Global CO2 emissions and the NHS having set out its Vision for Delivering a Net Zero NHS by 2040, industry needs to step up,

support and positively contribute to the achievement of a Net Zero NHS and act as individual member companies to ensure Sustainability is at the heart of members strategy. We will achieve this through offering innovative and disruptive technologies to healthcare providers, create a Special Focus Group in AXREM on Sustainability and encourage member companies and healthcare providers to move away from the current Linear Economy of take-make-dispose to a Circular Economy based on production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible.

Credentialling

The recent increase in credentialling providers in the UK is creating unnecessary disruption, bureaucracy and delay to member's ability to provide timely critical support services and innovation to healthcare providers in the UK and is adding avoidable cost to suppliers which ultimately gets passed on to healthcare providers through the price of goods and services purchased. AXREM members support the creation of one national credentialling register with independent oversight and operated

on a light touch, not for profit basis. AXREM will introduce a credentialling service called the AXREM Members Accreditation Scheme (AMA Scheme), whereby healthcare providers who are users of AXREM members products and services will be able to easily identify and validate that member company employees visiting healthcare providers sites and facilities have undergone appropriate training, vetting, validation and accreditation.

Cyber Security

The WannaCry ransomware attack on the NHS in May 2017 and the Conti ransomware attack on the Health Service Executive (HSE) of Ireland in May 2021 serve as timely reminders of the critical dependence healthcare providers place on IT services and the disruption and cost impact on healthcare delivery when they are compromised. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 saw a spike in cyber-attacks prompting healthcare providers and manufacturers to review the resilience of their cyber security and ensure mitigation plans, disaster recovery and business continuity services are in place and tested regularly. As major providers of Diagnostic & Treatment IT technology to the NHS and Independent Sector healthcare providers, AXREM has a key role to play as a consolidation

point and single voice of industry and to act as a trusted advisor and conduit to advise and assist healthcare providers in best practice, mitigating the impacts of cyber security breaches. The PACS/RIS and Artificial Intelligence Special Focus Groups in AXREM will play a key role in providing expertise, knowledge and assistance to healthcare providers to ensure AXREM members solutions in use in the UK have the highest resilience to cyber-attacks.

Through our Special Focus Groups, which include Radiotherapy, Ultrasound, Imaging IT, Artificial Intelligence, Sustainability, Marketing & Service Managers we will produce area specific manifestos which focus on the specific needs of that sector.

Summary

AXREM and its members will support healthcare providers meet the unique challenges of the post pandemic era through providing innovation, services, technology and workflow solutions which increase productivity and efficiency. With the pace of innovation and the increasing backlog, we believe this can only be achieved by having a consultative relationship with healthcare providers and stakeholders and ensuring that procurement is open, fair and transparent. We wish to deliver Sustainable solutions and services to support healthcare providers achieve their Net Zero ambitions. We wish to reduce and eliminate the unnecessary cost and bureaucracy associated with Credentialling schemes and will seek to support healthcare providers to have resilient and cyber secure IT systems which include AXREM members solutions.

AXREM

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