

13th EAN Workshop: ALARA in Medicine

WG 2: ***Policy and Tools for Implementing the ALARA Principle in the Medical Sector***

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General Comments

- many radiation protection tools are available, but not all are used:
 - ⇒ great diversity throughout EU member states
- awareness of radiation protection issues is pivotal:
 - ⇒ professional bodies
 - ⇒ patients and
 - ⇒ public
- both is important:
 - ⇒ the implementation of single tools
 - ⇒ the embedment of these tools in a process

General Comments

- medical radiation protection has to cover both:
 - ⇒ optimisation
 - ⇒ justification } quality assurance programme
- legal regulations have to focus on:
 - ⇒ outlining the framework
 - ⇒ defining the responsibilities } not primarily on the content

Conclusions and Recommendations

(1) Clinical Audits:

- ⇒ very important tool to achieve ALARA
- ⇒ have to address both optimisation and justification
- ⇒ pilot projects for EU member states not having implemented clinical audits yet

- ⇒ Post Tampere Workshop:
 - to assess status quo of process
 - to share experience
- } EAN-Request for the EC

Conclusions and Recommendations

(2) Referral Criteria:

- ⇒ very important tool to achieve ALARA
- ⇒ flexibility to national approaches has to be ensured
- ⇒ referral criteria → referrer
justification → radiological practitioner
- ⇒ EC should strongly advice member states to establish Referral Criteria
- ⇒ Health Authorities should stipulate multi-disciplinary-sessions in the clinical setting, taking into account Referral Criteria

Conclusions and Recommendations

(3) Diagnostic Reference Levels (DRLs):

- ⇒ very important tool to achieve ALARA
- ⇒ flexibility to national approaches has to be ensured
- ⇒ but: keep it simple!!!
- ⇒ don't forget: establishing DRLs is a process
- ⇒ don't forget: optimisation below DRLS is still necessary!!!
- ⇒ regular updates of DRLs are pivotal to sustain the process
- ⇒ establishment of DRLs in pediatric imaging is highly needed, in particular in CT

Thank you for your attention !

