



RER 9157 “Strengthening implementation of the justified and optimized use of ionizing radiation in medicine”

Regional Workshop on Patient Radiation Protection in Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology

Hosted by
Massachusetts General Hospital,
Boston, USA

25-29 March 2024

Ref. No.: ME-RER9157-2300804

Information Sheet

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Regional Workshop is to orient and train senior radiological professionals on patient radiation protection in all imaging modalities.

The professionals will meet with experts from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), a highly developed medical centre in the USA with advanced experience in patient radiation protection in all imaging modalities. MGH is recognised among the best hospitals in USA and is affiliated with Harvard University. Its radiology department is the place where clinical decision support in imaging was first introduced over a decade ago and thus has highest experience in application of justification in imaging.

The Regional Workshop will focus on illustrating on how the referral process takes place, how justification is practiced and how optimizations are done. It will include sharing practical experience from imaging experts, quality and safety experts and safety culture professionals in various areas of imaging.

B. Expected Outputs

Participants will increase their knowledge and skills on justification and optimization practices to be better professionals with attitude to practice and monitor imaging using best practices and to meet requirements for patient and workers’ radiation safety. The Regional Workshop will provide orientation on how professionals can cooperate and collaborate with the common purpose of achieving high standards of patient safety.

C. Working Language(s)

The working language(s) of the event will be English.

D. Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **22 December 2023** will not be considered.

E. Scope and Nature

The Regional Workshop will consist of classroom lectures, visits to clinical areas and interactive sessions.

Topics that will be included are:

1. Steps to be taken to strengthen the process of justification in one's country. Participants will be familiarized with a clinical decision support system and informed about signing of a bill by US President on the adoption of decision support that shall become mandatory in 2018;
2. Optimization: How the host institution has been able to reduce doses in different modalities (radiography, CT, mammography, in particular in paediatric CT), taking into account diagnostic image quality;
3. Compliance with State regulations and accreditation agencies. The USA overall has strength in accreditation and there are significant actions on compliance on State radiation safety requirements;
4. Safety culture: There are unique actions in place on this issue at the host institution and thus there will be opportunities to demonstrate how it is done;
5. Practical observation of different imaging methods and modalities;
6. Other topics in the IAEA standard curriculum will also be addressed.
- 7.

F. Participation

The Regional Workshop is open to 20 participants from Member States participating in the TC regional project RER/9/157. We will preferably look at training teams of two professionals from a country. The team members would be either a radiologist, medical physicist, radiographer or regulator and should either come from a single medical institution or should have good cooperation to contribute jointly. Based on the relevance of the experience, one or two participants per Member State will be selected, who must match the profile described in the corresponding paragraph.

Candidates must complete and submit their occupational exposure data in the format of the attached **Occupational Exposure History form** along with their nominations. Please note that no other format will be accepted.

In addition, in accordance with the US requirements, candidates should also provide a **copy of their passports** and their **mother's maiden name and father's full name** along with their nominations. The identity photo is also mandatory on the nomination and should be of good quality.

G. Participants' Qualifications and Experience

It is preferably planned to select teams of two participants. The first participant should be a diagnostic radiology specialist, with extensive experience in X-ray imaging, preferably with a leading position in the professional society, or coming from a teaching hospital. The second team member should be a qualified diagnostic medical physicist, or a senior radiation technologist/ radiographer or regulator actively involved in radiology. Only nominations from Member States that submitted their country action plan and are actively involved in the project RER/9/157 will be considered.

Fluency in written and spoken English is required.

The participants will also be required to follow the clinical guidelines pertaining patient privacy and access to clinical facilities of the host institution per the guidelines by the host institution.

H. Project Background

The project RER/9/157 is designed to assist Member States in the European region to enhance radiation protection and safety in medical uses of ionizing radiation through improved implementation of the requirements of the IAEA GSR Part 3. It is focused on strengthening national capacities to effectively implement the related regulatory requirements into practice.

The key areas to be addressed in the project include a) Justification of medical exposures; b) Optimization of radiation protection of patients including establishment and use of Diagnostic Reference Levels; c) Special attention on radiation protection of paediatric, pregnant and breastfeeding patients; and d) Prevention of accidental medical exposures. The project will endeavour to strengthen national mechanisms to achieve improvements on the broad national level. Regional cooperation will provide a platform for developing common approaches and for sharing of experience.

I. Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
 - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
 - b. Download and complete the [Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form](#), and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and
 - c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (**EVT2300804**) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

NOTE1: Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

NOTE2: A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for candidates over the age of 65 regardless.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the meeting from the IAEA website and submit their applications to their National Authorities. The nomination forms once fully approved can be submitted by e-mail in a PDF format through the official channels via the IAEA Official E-Mail (Official.Mail@iaea.org) with copy to Mr Katukhov (A.Katukhov@iaea.org) and Mr Bru (Y.Bru@iaea.org).

J. Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station.

K. Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the event do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

L. Note for Female Participants

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

M. IAEA Contacts

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Programme Management Officer and correspondence on other matters related to the regional Workshop to the Administrative Contact.