

International Workshop on Practical Implementation of  
**Clinical Audit for Medical Exposure to Ionizing Radiation**  
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CLINICAL AUDIT

# Standards of Good Practice

Why?

How?

What?

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# Standards – Why?



- Audit is assessment against a standard
- No standard = no audit!

# Standards – How?



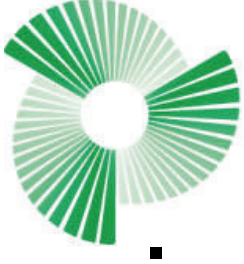
- **Results of research**
- **Consensus statements**
- **Recommendations by learned societies**
- **Legal requirements**
- **Local agreement (if there is no other more universal reference)**

# Levels of Standards



- **Level 1: The most generic criteria.**
- **Level 2: The criteria generic to a given field of application (diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine or radiotherapy).**
- **Level 3: Specific criteria. These criteria are specific to a given examination or treatment, (and can be part of the clinical protocol).**

# Level 1: Generic criteria.



## CLINICAL AUDIT

- **These standards or criteria relate to the general quality of the practices and can be applied to all type of practices, whether it is diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine or radiotherapy. Typical examples are, e.g., the lines of authority and definition of radiation safety responsibilities, provisions for continuous professional education, and the waiting time of the patient to be examined or treated.**

# Level 2, Application – specific criteria



- **The criteria generic to a given field of application (diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine or radiotherapy).**
- **These criteria can be applied for example to any diagnostic radiology procedure, independent of the purpose of the examination or the chosen modality.**

# Level 3: Specific criteria.



- **Criteria are specific to a given examination or treatment, and can be part of the clinical protocol.**
- **Consensus on this type of criteria may not be easily obtainable.**
- **It may also be dependent on the available techniques and facilities.**
- **Criteria should usually be agreed on individually for each audit run.**

# Standards – What?



- **LEVEL 1 - GENERIC**

- ***Structure***

Mission and vision

Organization and management structure

Personnel and training

Premises, equipment and materials

# Standards – What?



- **LEVEL 1 GENERIC**

- ***Process***

Justification and referral process

Examination and treatment practices and guidelines

Quality management

Information flow and documentation control

# Standards – What?



- **LEVEL 1 GENERIC**

- **Outcome**

???????

# Standards – What?



- **LEVEL 2**
- **Application-specific**
  - Injection-handling requirements for Nuclear Medicine
  - CT parameter choice for diagnostic radiology
  - Parameter / dosage chart checks for therapy.

# Standards – What?



- **LEVEL 3**
- **Technique – specific**
  - Inter-related with protocols
  - Field of view of bone scan
  - Angulation of gantry for CT skull
  - Lung-sparing for Breast R/T

# Standards



CLINICAL AUDIT

- **Critical – but do they always assess what is appropriate?**