

EUROPEAN COMMISSION GUIDELINE ON CLINICAL AUDIT FOR MEDICAL RADIOLOGICAL PRACTICES

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY, NUCLEAR MEDICINE, AND RADIOTHERAPY

Review



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Clinical Audit

for the assessment of medical radiological practices, including
nuclear medicine

Problem

high variation between the approaches of the
Member States in the implementation of clinical
audits and the need for further guidance

The purpose of this critical evaluation

- **To find out, from the standpoint of the European professional societies,**
- **the appropriateness and general applicability of the EC Guidance for clinical audits in each field of radiological procedures and nuclear medicine**

The purpose of the guideline

- **To improve the quality of patient care**
- **To promote the effective use of resources**
- **To enhance the provision and organization of clinical services**
- **To further professional education and training**

The detailed aims of clinical audit should be defined related to the standards of good practices

- **Internal audits** – set by the management of the departments (once a year)
- **External audits** - set by auditing organization , based on regional or national surveys – broader perspectives (every 5 years? –may be more frequent to keep the quality in life)

Need: to clarify the purpose of clinical audits by further guidance

- **local practice are compared with “good practice” .**
- **to define good practice**
- **guideline will define the list of topics which should be covered by clinical audits, and the actual criteria of good practice**

Standards of good practice

Clinical audit should promote the development and use of international standards of practice

Can be based on:

- **Results of research**
- **Consensus statements**
- **Recommendations by learned societies**

**General acceptability of the recommendation
multidisciplinary including all professionals**

General purpose

- **To evaluate the current status**
- **To identify areas for future improvement**

Specific audit criteria

- **Specific criteria to all imaging procedure**
- Guidelines for procedure the basis of the criteria of good practice.
- **Justification of examination for the benefit of patients – alternative diagnostic procedures**
 - radiation dose
 - contraindications

Practical implementation of clinical audit

- Certification of quality system and accreditation
- Regulatory inspection for radiation safety

Problem - interrelation with other audits

Interrelation with other external audits

- **Per review** - to assess the **clinical practice**
- **Accreditation** - to assess a whole organization
- **Award seeking** - to assess organization management
- **ISO certification** – quality of system, **procedures**
- **Clinical audit** – **procedures**, resulting outcome for the patient, (IAEA)

Clinical audit Radiology and Nuclear Medicine examinations multidisciplinary teams

Unique for work is

- Guidelines for the methods and reports
- The proper use of resources - critical task to select the most appropriate examination and therapy
- Resulting outcomes of treatment
- The impact upon quality of life