



Clinical Audit

The Irish Experience

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97/43 Euratom, Article 6,

“clinical audit shall be carried out in accordance with national procedures”.

Background

- 97/43 Euratom translated into Irish law by Statutory Instrument (SI) 478 (2002) / SI 303 (2007).
- 2005, criteria for clinical audit defined by the Irish Medical Council.
- 2007, multidisciplinary Task Force established by the Health Service Executive (HSE) to make recommendations on the implementation of SI 478 / SI 303 and to commence clinical audit.
- Remit of the Task Force was to oversee the commencement of a national baseline audit by October 2007.

National Baseline Audit

- **Objectives**
 - 1) Establish the level of clinical audit currently being conducted;
 - 2) Identify the clinical audit structures that are in place.
- **Methodology**
 - 1) Task Force subcommittee oversaw development of baseline audit;
 - 2) External agency commissioned to compile and analyse questionnaires;
 - 3) Separate questionnaires with a focus on self audit designed for the following areas:
 - Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine Departments;
 - Radiotherapy Departments;
 - Dental Surgeries and Clinics.

Baseline Audit Results

Figure 1: Departments Surveyed

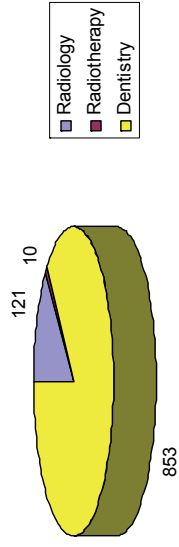
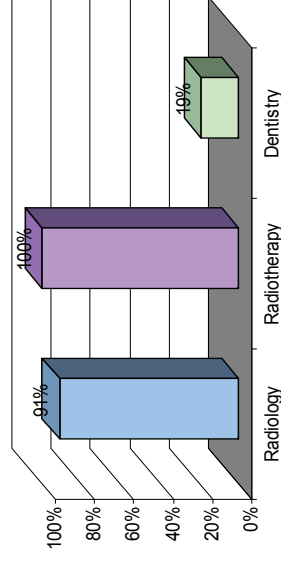


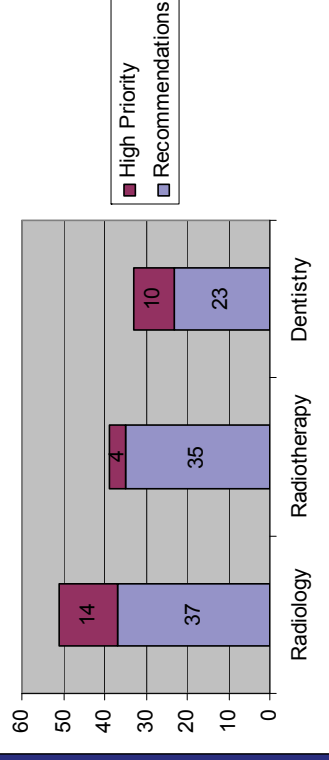
Figure 2: Questionnaire Response Rate



Departments Surveyed

Response Rates

Figure 3: Baseline Audit Recommendations



Recommendations derived from Analysis of Baseline Audit

Main Findings / Recommendations

Main Findings:

- Clinical audit in early stages in many organisations.
- High level of awareness of legislative requirements for clinical audit in Radiology and Radiotherapy.
- Lower level awareness of legislative requirements for clinical audit in Dentistry.

Recommendations:

- Training and education in clinical audit required.
- Initiatives need to be developed at national and local level to ensure culture of audit is established.
- The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) developing standards to ensure good radiation practices.