EuroSafe Imaging: be a star for your patients

The EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative launched the umbrella of EuroSafe Imaging in early 2016 to support the Call for Action. It has been designed to identify and recognize imaging facilities that embody best practice in radiation protection and that are committed to putting the principles advocated and concepts developed by the European Society of Radiology into practice.

The Stars initiative enables the European Society of Radiology to collect dose data for analysing trends in medical imaging. In addition, the Stars network can use the data for benchmarking and comparing their results with those of their peers. The EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative provides imaging departments with an incentive to embrace a holistic approach to quality and safety in radiology and thus the Stars network takes efforts to give radiation protection greater visibility while having a positive impact on clinical practice at the same time.

To participate in the EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative, imaging departments have to perform a self-assessment on their level of radiation protection. Therefore, an applicant department has to complete an online application form. The list of criteria of the self-assessment is divided into five sections and imaging facilities will be awarded up to five stars depending on how many criteria of a certain level they fulfill. However, some criteria are mandatory, for example participation in the survey series to collect CT dose data entitled ‘Is your Imaging EuroSafe?’. In addition, the self-assessment also includes questionnaire-based PCT protocols and automatic dose recording, dose optimization, justification, equipment quality clinical audit, or the use of a clinical decision support for imaging referral guidelines. After successful evaluation, the participating imaging departments are awarded the respective number of stars from one to five and listed on the ‘Wall of Stars’ according to the level attained. Participating facilities have to undergo the self-assessment biannually to renew their star status.

EuroSafe Imaging aims to promote quality and safety in medical imaging well beyond Europe and to encourage other regions to follow suit. Thus, imaging departments worldwide can apply to become a EuroSafe Imaging Star, provided that the departments based in an ESR member in good standing EuroSafe Imaging serves as a role model for radiation protection campaigns on other continents, where initiatives like Latin Safe (LAC countries), the pan-African AFROSAFE initiative, Canada Safe Imaging and Japan Safe Imaging have recently been established.

In January 2017, as facilities from 17 countries worldwide have joined the EuroSafe Imaging Stars network, with another 25 applications currently in the process of evaluation.

If your department is not a EuroSafe Imaging Star yet, don’t miss the chance to apply online or at the EuroSafe Imaging booth, located in the Innovation City.

You can also attend the dedicated session on the EuroSafe Imaging Stars today, 16:00-17:30, Room M3. This session will present the EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative in detail while also focusing on limitations and how to improve the concept.

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