



Together for Patient Safety

EuroSafe Imaging Strategy and Call for Action

An initiative of the European Society of Radiology (ESR)

The demand for medical imaging examinations is constantly growing, and safety and quality are more important than ever to good radiological practice. The European Society of Radiology (ESR) has taken a major step in raising awareness of this issue with the launch of EuroSafe Imaging in March 2014.

The new campaign, which brings together many stakeholders, will strengthen medical radiation protection across Europe following a holistic, inclusive approach.

EuroSafe Imaging focuses on promoting appropriateness in medical imaging, maintaining doses within diagnostic reference levels, and emphasising the importance of using up-to-date equipment in order to develop a patient safety culture in medical imaging.

With patient radiation exposure rising, the need to support the implementation of European Directives on medical radiation protection has never been greater than today.

EuroSafe Imaging is run by a steering committee composed of delegates from the ESR, radiological subspecialty societies, related medical professions (EFRS and EFOMP), patient groups, and the industry, along with an observer from the European Commission. Patient groups play a key role in the campaign, as patient communication on radiation protection is one of its major objectives.

EuroSafe Imaging has committed itself to defining a strategy and action plan that fulfil to a large extent the Bonn Call for Action put forward as an outcome of a conference held by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and co-sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in December 2012. It identifies responsibilities and a proposal for priorities for stakeholders regarding radiation protection in medicine for the next decade, including the objectives defined under the EMAN project (www.eman-network.eu, a European Commission funded project).

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1. Develop a Clinical Decision Support system for imaging referral guidelines available at the point of care and tailored to the European setting through the Europeanisation of the ACR Appropriateness Criteria. Long-term vision: development of a global set of evidence-based guidelines in collaboration with ACR.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 1: Enhance the implementation of the principle of justification*
2. Develop and promote a clinical audit tool for imaging to improve the quality of patient care and ensure justification is becoming an effective, transparent and accountable part of radiology practice.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 1: Enhance the implementation of the principle of justification*
3. Implement measures to maintain radiation doses within diagnostic reference levels (DRLs) and revisit the use of the DRL concept in Europe.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 2: Enhance the implementation of the principle of optimisation of protection and safety*
4. Promote the use of up-to-date equipment and provide guidance on maximising the use of available technology features to further reduce doses while maintaining image quality.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 2: Enhance the implementation of the principle of optimisation of protection and safety*
5. Establish and maintain dialogue with industry regarding improvement of radiological equipment, the use of up-to-date equipment and the harmonisation of exposure indicators in all modalities.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 3: Strengthen manufacturers' role in contributing to the overall safety regime*
6. Organise radiation protection training courses aimed at medical professionals and develop e-learning material in order to promote a safety culture and to raise awareness of radiation protection issues.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 4: Strengthen radiation protection education and training of health professionals*

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7. Collaborate with existing radiation protection research platforms (e.g. MELODI) and other medical professions in order to develop a strategic research agenda for radiation protection in medicine.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 5: Shape and promote a strategic research agenda for radiation protection in medicine*
8. Develop data collection project “Is your imaging EuroSafe ?” and educational project on guidelines “Are you imaging appropriately?” through ESR newsletter and Steering Committee members.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 6: Increase availability of improved global information on medical exposures and occupational exposures in medicine*
9. Develop specific criteria for safe imaging procedures that use ionising radiation in specific exams and anatomical regions.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 7: Improve prevention of medical radiation incidents and accidents and Action 8: Strengthen radiation safety culture in health care*
10. Increase and improve communication with relevant health professionals via outreach through EuroSafe Imaging Steering Committee members (including European professional organisations representing radiographers, medical physicists and cardiologists), website, newsletters, conference sessions, training material and social media.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 8: Strengthen radiation safety culture in health care*
11. Improve information for and communication with patients regarding radiological procedures and related risks in order to ensure empowerment of patients.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 9: Foster an improved radiation benefit-risk-dialogue*
12. Engage with other stakeholders and collaborate with related initiatives (e.g. Image Wisely and Image Gently) as well as with regulatory authorities in Europe and beyond in order to contribute to a global safety culture in medical imaging.
 - *Implementing Bonn Call for Action 10: Strengthen the implementation of safety requirements globally*

The Status Quo - July 2014

CDS

ESR experts to commence work on European guidelines in autumn 2014

Clinical audit

ESR is currently preparing templates for developing internal clinical audit

PiDRL tender

Workshop on European Diagnostic Reference Levels for Paediatric Imaging is scheduled for October 2015

Data collection

ESR is currently preparing questionnaire for "Is your imaging EuroSafe?" to assess CT practices in Europe

Up-to-date equipment

ESR is currently formulating a strategy to update the equipment base in Europe

MoU with COCIR

ESR has been working ever more closely with industry since Memorandum of Understanding with COCIR was signed in June 2013

E-Courses

Available e-learning tools include the case database EURORAD and online courses from the European School of Radiology (ESOR)

ECR 2015

Several EuroSafe Imaging sessions are planned on topics including CDS, audit and dose-tracking

MELODI

MoU on cooperation between low-dose research platform MELODI and medical associations including the ESR has been finalised in Q2 2014

Website, ESR newsletters

www.eurosafeimaging.org is up and running. ESR members receive updates on EuroSafe Imaging monthly in *ESR News* and bi-monthly in *ESR@Work*

GPS and KIQSI

The globalisation, personalisation and safety (GPS) approach and Key Indicators of Quality and Safety in Imaging (KIQSI) underpin all ESR radiation protection activities

PAGMI

The Patient Advisory Group for Medical Imaging, established in 2013, gives patients a voice in all relevant ESR initiatives

Engagement with other campaigns

ESR is working towards a global quality and safety culture in imaging with Image Gently and Image Wisely