

## Our Contribution to the EuroSafe Imaging Call of Action Société Française de Radiologie

# Radiation protection in France

# The French Society of Radiology actions

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Be part of the European Society of Radiology's radiation protection initiative, become a Friend of EuroSafe Imaging. [www.eurosafeimaging.org](http://www.eurosafeimaging.org)

The French Society of Radiology (Société Française de Radiologie - SFR) has established the Radiation Safety Working Group for the purpose of promoting medical radiation protection in France, for both patients and healthcare practitioners. This group brings together experts from a wide variety of professional backgrounds: medical physicists, radiographers and radiologists working in private practice or in general/academic hospitals. The purpose of this poster is to present an overview of the main actions of the SFR on guideline publication, advanced professional training, clinical audit and patients' information.

### Guidelines and tools for practitioners

- » In 2005, the SFR published a book with Referral Guidelines for Clinical Imaging (Guide du bon usage des examens d'imagerie médicale). This comprehensive document covers all clinically relevant information useful to the practitioner for selecting and justifying radiological procedures. It was updated in 2013 and is available both online in a downloadable digital version (<http://gbu.radiologie.fr/>; Fig. 1) and as a user-friendly smartphone application.



Fig. 1: Referral Guidelines for Clinical Imaging by the French Society of Radiology

- » *Guidelines on Radiation Dose and Dose-optimisation* in conventional radiology and computed tomography are available on the SFR website (<http://rontgen.sfrnet.org/sfropri/index.html>).
- » The SFR has published a *Practical Guide for Radiologists* to help radiologists evaluate their professional practices. This guide includes recommendations based on expert consensus for 400 different types of commonly performed procedures.
- » The SFR has developed a guide specifically on *Interventional Radiology Procedures* (<http://gri.radiologie.fr/>). This guide includes a specific chapter on radiation protection in interventional radiology.
- » In collaboration with the French National Authority for Health (Haute Autorité en Santé - HAS), the SFR has created a document, which provides guidelines for monitoring patients after interventional radiology procedures ([http://www.has-sante.fr/portail/jcms/c\\_1754223/fr/ameliorer-le-suivi-des-patients-en-radiologie-interventionnelle-et-actes-radioguides](http://www.has-sante.fr/portail/jcms/c_1754223/fr/ameliorer-le-suivi-des-patients-en-radiologie-interventionnelle-et-actes-radioguides)), with a view to help rationalise imaging and reduce the risk of deterministic effects.

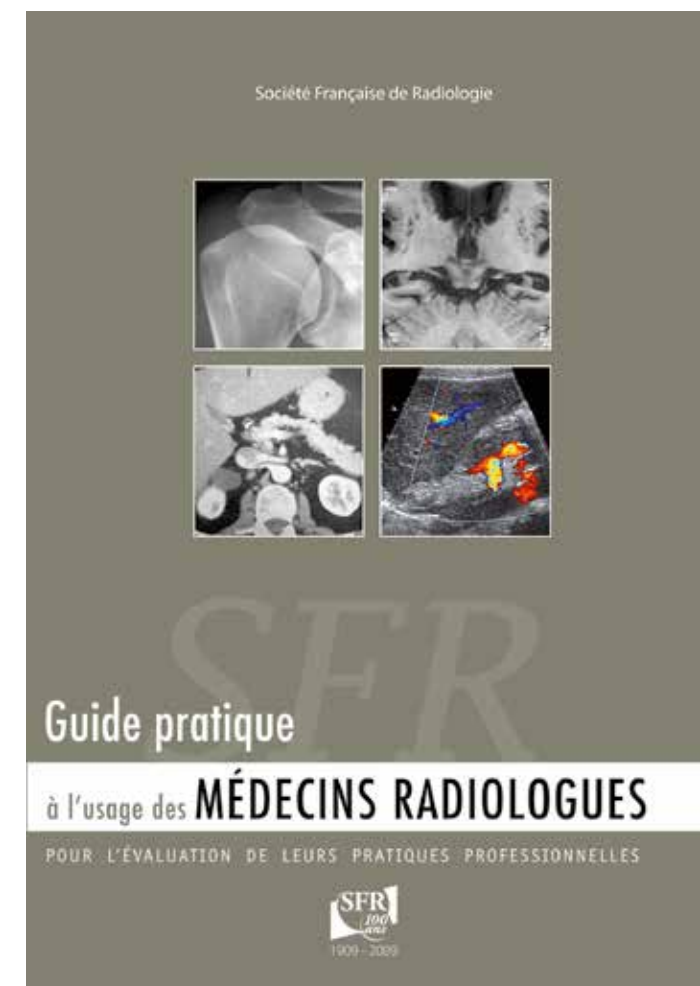


Fig. 2: Practical Guide for Radiologists

### Advanced professional training and audit

- » The SFR develops and promotes clinical audit tools for imaging in collaboration with the HAS. These tools for clinical audit are composed of 18 frames for the implementation of 20 programmes using methods validated by the HAS. Audit tools for radiology are available on the HAS website: ([http://www.has-sante.fr/portail/jcms/c\\_784643/fr/criteres-depp-en-imagerie-medicale](http://www.has-sante.fr/portail/jcms/c_784643/fr/criteres-depp-en-imagerie-medicale)).
- » The SFR has implemented a training programme to promote clinical audit and self-benchmarking on diagnostic reference levels (DRLs) ([https://www.eiseverywhere.com/file\\_uploads/420bbd4f9d50263e1ce463f6ba9f52ce\\_1400004\\_JFR\\_Radioprotection-programme-V6.pdf](https://www.eiseverywhere.com/file_uploads/420bbd4f9d50263e1ce463f6ba9f52ce_1400004_JFR_Radioprotection-programme-V6.pdf)). The objective is to enhance the culture of radiation safety and help teams to maintain radiation doses within DRLs.
- » Finally, the SFR annual conference (Journées Françaises de Radiologie - JFR) offers the opportunity for radiologists to take practical refresher courses on radiation protection.

### Technological developments for radiation detection

- » In close technical and scientific cooperation with its industry partners (SNITEM) and the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN), the SFR actively contributes to the optimisation of currently available devices and future developments to strengthen radiation protection.

### Patients' information

- » The SFR provides clear and balanced information for patients on its website regarding the potential risks and expected benefits from ionising radiation procedures (<http://www.sfrnet.org/sfr/professionnels/1-fiche-information-patients/radioprotection/index.phtml>). The website also provides information for healthcare providers on radiation protection. These documents were developed by a group of professionals in association with organisations representing patients.
- » Under the aegis of the IRSN (Institut de Radioprotection et de Sécurité Nucléaire) and a patients' association (Association d'aide aux victimes d'accidents médicaux - AVIAM), the SFR participated in the development of a patient information leaflet containing specific information on radiation protection ([http://www.irs.fr/fr/actualites\\_presse/actualites/pages/20121010-parution-brochure-radiographie-scanner.aspx](http://www.irs.fr/fr/actualites_presse/actualites/pages/20121010-parution-brochure-radiographie-scanner.aspx); Fig. 3).



Fig. 3: Patient information leaflet on radiation protection

### Conclusion

Consistent with the aims of the Eurosafe Imaging Call For Action, the SFR is committed to promoting radiation protection and has implemented through its Radiation Safety Working Group a core set of specific actions aimed at both healthcare professionals and patients.