

BY FLORIAN DEMUTH

# ESR iGuide – delivering the ESR’s imaging referral guidelines at the point of care

At the European Congress of Radiology (ECR) 2015, the European Society of Radiology (ESR) introduced its clinical decision support (CDS) system, ESR iGuide, developed in cooperation with the software firm National Decision Support Company (NDSC) and using imaging referral guidelines based on the appropriateness criteria developed by the American College of Radiology (ACR) and used in ACR Select.

Having advocated CDS as a tool to increase the use of imaging referral guidelines and make imaging utilisation in Europe more appropriate, the development of ESR iGuide represents an important milestone in the ESR’s efforts to improve quality and safety in radiology. Since ECR 2015, things have moved fast with the development of European imaging referral guidelines and the set-up of infrastructure for effective deployment of ESR iGuide across Europe. In the context of the implementation of the revised Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive, the ESR iGuide initiative comes at the right time, and offers healthcare providers a tool to address challenges in providing radiology services in differing national settings.

Following an agreement with the ACR in 2014 that enabled the ESR to use their well-established Appropriateness Criteria, developed over the past 25 years by 12 expert panels, an ESR-appointed team of specialists from various areas of clinical radiology conducted a scientific review of the ACR’s criteria in order to adapt them for use in the European setting. Led by a dedicated methodologist,

the ESR’s European Imaging Referral Guidelines constitute a common set of standard guidelines for use in Europe in a format that enables users to localise the guidelines according to national requirements or institutional circumstances. This ‘Europeanisation’ process carried out in 2015 is the first step towards the ESR and ACR’s shared vision of developing a joint set of global, evidence-based guidelines in the future.

With ACR Select (the CDS system distributed in the United States by the ACR and NDSC since 2012) installed at more than 100 US sites and pilot implementation in several European countries starting in 2016, the ESR also made the necessary preparations to review user feedback and keep the guidelines up to date. The ACR’s Rapid Response Committee (RRC), which is charged with these tasks, also became a joint committee, with the ESR’s guideline experts becoming full members of the RRC. In addition, the ESR turned the ESR iGuide project team into a formal working group under the umbrella of its Quality, Safety and Standards Committee. This will allow the ACR and ESR to work

together more effectively, make the review process even more robust, and provide a wider range of user experiences from both sides of the Atlantic from which to learn and update the criteria, improving the quality of the guidelines.

Meanwhile, NDSC established a European office in 2015 so that it can effectively deploy the ESR’s guidelines within the ESR iGuide system. With the support of the US team, who have experience of more than 100 implementations under their belt, NDSC Europe can use their expertise to ensure the ESR’s guidelines are delivered to European healthcare settings with maximum effect. Since its establishment in October, NDSC Europe has recruited pilot sites slated for implementation of ESR iGuide in several European countries in 2016, and has started working with electronic health record (EHR) providers to allow users to benefit from ESR iGuide’s features to the fullest extent.

Make sure you attend the ECR session on CDS today and visit the ESR iGuide booth in the entrance hall of the Austria Center Vienna.

More information: [www.esriguide.org](http://www.esriguide.org)

NATIONAL  
DECISION SUPPORT  
COMPANY

ESR iGUIDE  
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGY

## Professional Challenges Session

Thursday, March 3, 16:00–17:30, Studio 2016

PC 8a Clinical decision support (CDS)

Moderator: S. Weckbach; Heidelberg/DE

Teaser: J. Sellors; London/UK

- » **Chairman’s introduction**  
L. Donoso Bach; Barcelona/ES
- » **What is a clinical decision support system?**  
F. Sardanelli; San Donato Milanese/IT
- » **Imaging referral guidelines in Europe**  
M.G.M. Hunink; Rotterdam/NL
- » **An effective clinical decision support system**  
G. Boland; Boston, MA/US
- » **Cost-effectiveness of clinical decision support**  
P. Mildenberger; Mainz/DE
- » **Panel discussion: Is CDS really adding value to healthcare in addition to radiation safety?**

*This session is part of the EuroSafe Imaging campaign.*



## THINKING OF WORKING IN THE UK?

Are you a radiologist thinking of working in the UK? The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) will be running a workshop introducing the benefits of and requirements for working in the UK. The workshop will be held:

Friday 4 March 2016 16:00–18:00  
Room 1.86, Austria Center Vienna

- Hear from radiologists who have already made the move to the UK
- Have your questions answered
- Network with UK recruiters and radiologists

To register to attend the workshop please visit the RCR stand at ECR 2016 in the Society Booths Area.

[www.rcr.ac.uk/work-UK](http://www.rcr.ac.uk/work-UK)



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and limited expectations as to growing the numbers in training to build the future workforce. The College sees this as its number one priority and constantly interfaces and lobbies workforce planning bodies across the UK; those who run the UK National Health Service (NHS) and the Government. Alongside such policy and political activity, the College has developed models for networking radiology services which have the potential to provide more effective and efficient structures for training greater numbers of radiologists, as well as providing services, particularly in specialised areas such as paediatric imaging over a wider population base, which is a way of using scarce resources effectively.

To help those facing the real demands of practice today, the College has commenced a series of advice and guidance documents to

ensure that working as a radiologist remains a sustainable and stimulating career. This series entitled ‘A sustainable future for diagnostic radiology’ already comprises seven documents. These will be added to and reviewed regularly to bring together good ideas from Fellows and members around the UK.

The UK has no option at the moment but to look outside its borders to attract radiologists from other countries to work in the UK. At ECR 2015, there was a highly successful Working in the UK workshop which brought together those in the UK who wished to recruit from overseas with those seeking to work in the UK, particularly those from the European Union. Building on that experience, there will be two Working in the UK workshops at ECR 2016 on Thursday, March 3, 2016 (16:00–18:00) and Friday, March

4, 2016 (16:00–18:00). If you are looking to work in the UK and would like to hear practical tips and insights about moving to work and live in the UK, as well as meet prospective employers, please register to attend one of the workshops. Similarly, if you are someone looking to recruit from overseas, the workshops are also for you. There is a wealth of information generally on Working in the UK on the College website: <https://www.rcr.ac.uk/clinical-radiology/working-in-the-UK>

The College looks forward to participating fully in ECR 2016 and, as always, will have its booth in the Societies area where you can obtain more information and meet our helpful staff.