IAEA’s Quality Management Audits Programmes

Dr Diana Paez
Head of Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Imaging Section
Division of Human Health
Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications
International Atomic Energy Agency
Independent, intergovernmental, science- and technology-based organization within the United Nations family.
Serves as the global focal point for nuclear cooperation worldwide.
1. Safeguards and verification, ensures that MS comply with their commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other non-proliferation agreements to use nuclear materials and facilities only for peaceful purposes.

2. Safety and Security. Develops nuclear safety standards and promotes high levels of safety as well as the protection of human health and the environment against ionizing radiation.
3. Nuclear Sciences and Applications. Assists MS in the context of social and economic goals through the planning and use of nuclear science and technology for various peaceful purposes.
Within the IAEA’s commitment to transferring nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes

Our role in the Division of Human Health is to strengthen the capabilities of MS to address the needs related to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of health problems through the application of nuclear and related techniques.
Global Support for Nuclear Medicine, Radiology and Radiotherapy

- Making the case
- Continuing professional development
- Adherence to safety standards
- On diagnostic and therapeutic applications
- Planning and setting up
- Appropriate use criteria, right study for the right patient
- Implementation of Quality management programmes
- Research

CLINICAL APPLICATIONS
SAFETY FIRST
PLAN
DO
ACT
CHECK
Introduction of Comprehensive Audits

- The IAEA has recognized the need to audit medical radiation technology (diagnostics & therapy)
- The foundation is the IAEA International Basic Safety Standards. First edition in 2003, revision 2014
- EC Directive 97/43/Euratom: EU countries are recommended to implement clinical audits
- IAEA methodology for comprehensive clinical audit has been developed and published for radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and diagnostic radiology

https://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Publications/PDF/Pub1578
• **Quality Assurance**
  set of activities intended to establish confidence that quality requirements will be met. QA is one part of QM

• **Quality Management**
  includes all the activities that organizations use to direct, control, and coordinate quality. These activities include formulating a quality policy and setting quality objectives

QM includes:

- planning
- control
- assurance
- improvement
The Deming (PDCA) Cycle

- **Plan**: A process or a change
- **Do**: Implement the plan and performance measurement
- **Check**: The results
- **Act**: To correct discrepancies or adopt a new process

Improve the clinical practice of the speciality and the quality of services provided
IAEA’s Vision

Quality Management in Radiation Medicine

- Provide best possible service to patients
- At the lowest possible risk
- At adequate costs for patients and community, including the environment
- Improve satisfaction of customers and providers
Objective of the QM Audit

- Review and evaluate quality of all elements involved in the different processes
- Assist facilities in maintaining and improving quality of service for patients, referring physicians and other stakeholders
- Staff and professional competence
- Equipment and procedures
- Patient protection and safety
- Performance of the departments, interaction with external services
Dose Audits for Radiotherapy Centres

**Dose audit service:**
- >13000 beam checks
- ~2300 radiotherapy centres in 133 Member States

**Supports Dosimetry Audit Networks**
15 years support to over 25 DANs through blind dose comparisons (2004-2019)

**How is the audit carried out?**
Small dosimeters are sent to radiotherapy centres for irradiation to verify the beam output used for patients’ treatments.
Comprehensive RT audit: QUATRO

Comprehensive Audits of Radiotherapy Practices: a Tool for Quality Improvement

Quality Assurance Team for Radiation Oncology (QUATRO)
QUATRO activities 2005–2019

Training of auditors and regional QUATRO workshops in all world regions

96 QUATRO missions to date: Africa (11); Asia (22 + 10 re-audits); Europe (33 + 4 re-audits + 1 QUATRO physics audit); Latin America (14 + 1 re-audit)
Ongoing efforts by IAEA - QUALITY

QUANUM project is a means to support MS to implement QM systems

Encourage a routine of conducting periodic and systematic audits in the clinical environment

QUANUM provides independent quality audits through comprehensive reviews of nuclear medicine practices

Focuses on the peer review of nuclear medicine practices and management in a nuclear medicine centre.

Apply good clinical practices by identifying areas of improvement

QUANUM Audits 2008-2019

Chart Title

- Asia: 35
- Latin America: 24
- Europa: 9
- Africa: 8

76 Audits - 36 countries
56 Auditors – 14 teams
QUANUM workshops 24 - 540 trainees
QUAADRIL

Bosnia and Herzegovina
Belgium
Israel
Thailand
Malaysia
UAE
Clinical Audit Purpose

Clinical audit involves evaluation of data, documents and resources to check performance against standards.

The purpose can be generally summarized as:

- To improve the quality of patient care
- To promote the effective use of resources
- To enhance the provision and organization of clinical services

To further professional education and training.
Achievements of the QUAADRIL, QUANUM or QUATRO projects

• Quality management culture
• Training in quality management in nuclear medicine, radiology and radiotherapy
• Multidisciplinary audit teams trained (different regions)
• High impact throughout the world and in the audited centres
Conclusions

IAEA audits provide a tool for improvement of radiology, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy practices.

Countries can adopt QUADIRIL, QUANUM or QUATRO methodologies as part of the national comprehensive quality system or perform self-audits at the department level.

http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications
http://humanhealth.iaea.org
Thank you