AIMS AND BENEFITS OF AUDIT: RADIOTHERAPY

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• I do not have any conflict of interest to disclose.
Definition

Careful examination/evaluation of:
personnel
organization or system process(es)

✓ Assessment of the current situation against agreed criteria or standards
✓ Action on the findings
✓ Continuous improvement in the quality of care delivered

• A **systematic** and **continuing** activity
• Part of an ongoing **learning curve**
Aims

• to ascertain the validity and reliability of information
• to provide an assessment of the system’s internal control

Personal and professional improvement
Good practice
Improved patient care
Optimum outcomes

Varies from country to country
Closely linked with available resources and facilities
Changes and evolves with research / trial findings
Components

- **Resources**  Staff and equipment
- **Processes**  Actions and decisions taken
- **Outcomes**  How are outcomes measured in the clinical setting
RT: staff & process

- Radiation Oncologists
- RTTs
- Medical Physicists & Dosimetrists
- Other staff members
  nurses, administrators

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY BOARD

PREPARATION
- simulation
- contouring
- planning

IRRADIATION & POSITION VERIFICATION

FOLLOW UP

- Level and quality of equipment available
  Adequacy for expected function
- Facilities available
- Role of the involved professionals
  Appropriateness of their educational background
- Current practice
  Meets agreed / accepted standards
  Follows published guidelines
  Applies knowledge gained through research
  Applied in the appropriate setting
- Protocols (development, updating, adherence)
Benefits: for the department

- **Exit meeting**: participating staff and the audit team
  - Detailed and open discussion of the findings
  - Opportunity for comment, discussion and clarification

- **Audit Report**: comprehensive report of the findings

  - What actions need to be taken?
  - What are the barriers to change locally?
  - How can these be overcome?

Offer help and advice where difficulties exist
Benefits: general

• **Sustaining improvement:**
  • Developing performance indicators
  • Measuring adherence to protocols
  • Learning from incidents and near incidents
  • Supporting a dynamic and motivated approach to practice improvement
Model audit

QUATRO initiative = comprehensive independent external clinical audit conducted by a multidisciplinary team

✓ Fact finding and interpretation through a systematic examination of clinical procedures
✓ Methodology can be applied in a wide range of economic and cultural settings

Offer help and advice where difficulties exist

- Improve practice for benefit of the patient
- Identify priorities for planning of the department
- Ensure safety and compliance
- Solicit funding
- View towards training and up-skilling of staff