National Experience of Clinical Audit:
The Finnish Experience

Raija Seuri
Paediatric radiologist
HUS Medical Imaging, Children’s Hospital

Clinical Auditor in Finland 2003-2017

Helsinki, Finland
I do not have any conflict of interest to disclose
Finland

- Population 5.5 million
- Area 303 890.89 km²
- 77 billion trees
- 187 888 lakes
- 264 000 moose
- 1 Santa Claus
- 5 university hospitals
- About 350 licence holders for radiation in health care
Legislative background

- **EU**
  - BSS-directive 96/29/EURATOM
  - MED-directive 97/43/EURATOM + 2013/59/EURATOM

- **Finland**
  - Radiation act 592/1991 + 859/2018
  - Radiation decree 1512/1991 + 1044/2018

Advice from STUK, professional associations, etc.
Finnish Advisory Committee for Clinical Audit (KLIARY) (www.kliininenauditointi.fi)

• Coordination, assessment, advice
• Comprehensive surveys of the outcome of audits
• Recommendations for the priorities for the audits
Auditors

- Auditing team
  - Medical expert (radiologist, nuclear medicine physician, cardiologist)
  - Radiographer
  - Medical physicist (advanced imaging like ct, interventions,...)
  - Independent organisation

- Education
  - Training on Clinical Audits
  - Good knowledge in the radiological practices to be audited, based on professional experience and expertise
In the beginning ... 2000-2006
• On-site visits  1-2 (-4) days

• Reviews of documents and data, observation, interviews, assessment of the image quality for a sample of patient images

• Comparison to good practises
KLIARY recommended priorities for radiology

- 2002
  - Quality systems and documentation
- 2006
  - Paediatric examinations
  - Computed tomography (CT)
  - Transfer to digital techniques
  - Self-assessments
- 2013
  - Cardiology (IR)
  - Use of radiation outside radiology departments
  - New equipment/modalities (PET-CT, CBCT,...)
Today: Advanced Clinical Audits... 2017 ->
• Predefined procedures audited nationwide with specified criteria

• Documentation +/- on-site visit
  • Documentation:
    • self assessments!
    • instructions, guidelines
    • systematic questionnaires
  • Interviews

• Radiology
• Nuclear medicine
• Radiation therapy
• Small radiological units
Priorities for advanced clinical audits (KLIARY)

- 2017
  - nationwide recommendations and audits of practise (questionnaires, interviews, self assessments)
    - paediatric head CT
    - paediatric trauma CT
    - CT colongraphy
    - pulmonary embolism CT
    - CBCT head and neck
  - cardiology (IR)
  - hybrid imaging
Outcome of clinical audits
Clinical audit survey 2006

- Average 4-7 recommendations per health care unit

- Benefits
  - improvements in the referral practice, quality assurance programs, distribution of responsibilities, communication between different professionals
Clinical audit survey 2012

- Did you find the clinical audit useful?

1. Useful for the staff
2. Useful for the management
3. Useful for the processes
4. Benefit to cost
5. Overall benefit

% of replies

Not at all useful
...
...
Very useful
Improvement of practises due to the audit?

1. Quality of referrals
2. Instructions
3. Communication
4. Education possibilities
5. Imaging practises
6. Self-evaluations
7. Other
Personal view:

- Neutral observer/advisor
- Education
- Distribute information
"Good practise"
- critical for clinical audit

- Regulations and regulatory guidance
- Recommendations/Guidelines by EC, ICRP, IAEA, ESR, ESTRO, EANM, EMAN ....and by national organizations, Image Gently, ACR, RCR, SNM....
- Professional books
- Scientific papers
Abdominal CT guideline for optimization of practice

Current Care Guidelines (www-kaypahoito.fi: >100 disease-oriented guidelines)
Thank you!

raija.seuri@hus.fi