The clinical audit experience of European Union of Medical Specialists/European Board of Nuclear Medicine (UEMS/EBNM)

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European Union of Medical Specialists/European Board of Nuclear Medicine (UEMS/EBNM)

Chairman of the Committee for Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Departments and Nuclear Medicine Training Centres

December 16, 2020
UEMS = European Union of Medical Specialists

www.uems.eu

• Founded in 1958
• Represents 40 countries and 43 medical EU specialities for 1.6 million of physicians
• Role in promotion and harmonization of highest level of training within EU
Nuclear Medicine (NM) and UEMS

- 1989 NM recognized after 8 y of negotiations
- 1990 Nuclear Medicine Section founded
- 1993 European Board of Nuclear Medicine
- 2003 Merging both Sections → UEMS/EBNM
SEARCHED FOR UEMS/EBNM

The European Union of Medical Specialists (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes, or UEMS), was established in 1979 as a representative organisation for medical specialities in the European Union (EU) and in the European Economic Area (EEA). It is a network of 65 organisations, including National Medical Organisations (NMOs) representing the national associations of medical specialists in the EU and its associated countries. Its structure consists of a council responsible for and working through 43 specialist sections and their national committees, as well as a board, which includes representatives from these organisations (medical societies, colleges, and universities). The council represents the professionals, the individual specialists and their patients, and the public. It is the forum where the EBMN is the European-level body that guarantees the standards of medical training and continuing education across the EU.

The UEMS/EBNM in the Current Challenge of Educating Nuclear Medicine Specialists

Saravan Frangos, Roland Hareinne, Aizhane Bouhadiz, Terence Ferriero, John O. Prior, Mirnales Siriono, and Leopoldo UEMS Section of Nuclear Medicine and European Board of Nuclear Medicine, Vitoria, Austria

EDUCATION AND SYLLABUS

The role of the UEMS/EBNM in education and training is to create training requirements for the EBMN Nuclear Medicine Specialist with the aim of providing high standards for nuclear medicine specialists throughout the EU and beyond.

Nuclear medicine is one of the most dynamic fields in medicine. It is defined as the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education program requirements in the following way: "Nuclear medicine is the medical specialty that uses the tracer principle, most often with radiotracers, to detect, evaluate, and treat medical conditions, whether they are congenital, metabolic, allergic, or neoplastic, and can therefore be used to diagnose, treat and monitor the effectiveness of treatment in various medical conditions. It is an important part of the therapy of nuclear medicine. The UEMS/EBNM describes the therapy of nuclear medicine in Europe. The syllabus is used in 3 sections describing training content and learning outcomes for every field in

Improving Nuclear Medicine Practice with UEMS/EBNM Committees

Simon Mireaux, MD, Roland Hareinne, MD, PhD, John O. Prior, MD, PhD, Zehra Uzun, MD, Aizhane Bouhadiz, MD, and Mehmet Fardal, MD for the European Union of Medical Specialists and Specialist Board for Nuclear Medicine.

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2020

Dose optimization in pediatric studies: Why this is important and can benefit every nuclear medicine department

John O. Prior, groso Mireaux, Giovanni Green and Mauro Nicol Laindome

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2020
UEMS/EBNM has 4 Committees:

- Education and Syllabus
- Accreditation of NM departments and training centres
- Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education (CME)
- Fellowship examination (FEBNM)
Education and Syllabus Committee

• Nuclear medicine is a rapidly changing specialty

• To maintain high standards in education, the education and syllabus committee is working closely with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine
Committee on accreditation of NM departments and training centers

• Role implementing accreditation system across Europe → granting certificate valid 5 years

• Clinical audit is the basis for accreditation, as required by Council Directive 97/43 EURATOM

• More than 70 NM Departments have been accredited by UEMS/EBNM since 2004
Committee on Accreditation of NM Departments and Training Centers

http://uems.eanm.org/

- 7 Committee Members
- 9 Corresponding Members
UEMS/EBNM Accreditation
Modular System

1. Accreditation as NM Department

2. Accreditation as NM Department and Training Center
Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Departments

• Benefit of accreditation = improvement of patient care by standardization of quality:
  – Continuous improvement of radiation dose to patients, their families and the NM staff
  – Improving quality given available resources, reducing service’s expenses, wastages, and duplications, while revealing incorrect practices and avoiding accidents or near-misses
Accreditation and Clinical Audit

Accreditation ensures correct daily practice, continuous offering of consistent services, permanent uniformity and confidence in the results, availability of technical and human capabilities and international recognition inside the accredited department. It is a way to make society and institutions know that the work is being done efficiently and orderly, in a responsible and competitive way, providing confidence and security to the services provided. Ultimately, the accreditation increases the quality of nuclear medicine services across Europe, which has the added benefit of increasing public awareness and credibility in the specialty and, ultimately, in patient care, which is the most important issue.

Audit is defined as a tool to improve the quality of patient care, experience and outcome through formal review of systems, pathways and outcomes of care against defined standards, and the implementation of changes based on the results [3]. In other words, it compares what we are doing today to what should be done by judging our present clinical practice in relation to the national or international standards for the given situation [4]. Comparing to research, audit has its roots
Accreditation of NM Departments

• Prerequisite:
  – Certification ISO 9001:2015 (*lengthy and costly*)
  – Alternate certification pathways exist (*faster*):
    • International Atomic Energy Agency **QUANUM**
    • National societies’ clinical audits
      (mandatory in EU since 01.01.2018)
Accreditation application: What is needed

• A valid quality system (ISO9001:2015 or Internal/external Quality Audit according to national regulations)
• At least 1 FTE qualified NM physician (preferably FEBNM)
• A list of services + protocols written in local language; must comply with EANM/SNM and national guidelines
• The 5 most frequent protocols; the committee will ask for 5 more protocols randomly chosen
• Decision: Accreditation / Minor deficiencies / Major deficiencies
• On-site visits exceptional (for budget reasons)
Application for accreditation

UEMS/EBNM Committees

On-line Application Forms

The accreditation system is a modular system:
You should apply first for accreditation of your department and if you wish also in the same step for accreditation as Training Center.

If your department fulfills the criteria for an accreditation, in the next step we check your application for an accreditation as Training Center.

To be certified by the European Board of Nuclear Medicine as a Training Center the department has to fulfill certain objective criteria concerning staff, equipment, number and spectrum of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, teaching and quality control, others are optional.

In summary, this means:
Departments that apply for accreditation as nuclear medicine department will be accredited as:

1. Department for Nuclear Medicine
or
2. Department for Nuclear Medicine and Training Center, if they fulfill the additional criteria for Training Center

Therefore the UEMS/EBNM Accreditation Committee provides an online application form for Training Center after completing the application form for Department.

Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Department
(that is followed by the optional application form for Training Centers)

→ On-line application form
# 23 Accredited Departments (2020)

**UEMS/EBNM Committees**

## Accredited Departments (sorted by country)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Institute</th>
<th>Accreditation period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRIA</td>
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<td>Institut für Schilddrüsendiagnostik und Nuklearmedizin</td>
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<td>AUSTRIA</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Klinikum Klagenfurt am Wörthersee</td>
<td>2020 - 2024</td>
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<td>GREECE</td>
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<td>Affidea Euromedic of Vari</td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
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<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>SIMM-Gabinete Nuclear Delfos</td>
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<td>SWITZERLAND</td>
<td>Brig</td>
<td>Affidea Brig MRI</td>
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**SECTION and EUROPEAN BOARD OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE (EBNM)**

**Working together for the future of Nuclear Medicine**
Accreditation of NM Training Centers

• Fulfilling minimum criteria of UEMS/EBNM education and syllabus committee for all teachers of nuclear medicine (physicians, technologists, radiopharmacists, physicists)

• If not full range of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures → accreditation is still possible with a formal agreement with another accredited centre
14 Accredited Departments and Training Centres (2020)

**UEMS/EBNM Committees**

**Accredited Departments & Training Centers (sorted by country)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>AUSTRIA</td>
<td>Klagenfurt</td>
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<td>La Spezia</td>
<td>San Andrea Hospital</td>
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<td>ITALY</td>
<td>Rionero</td>
<td>IRCCS CROB Referral Cancer Center of Basilicata</td>
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<td>2015-2019</td>
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<td>NETHERLANDS</td>
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<td>University Medical Center Groningen</td>
<td>2015-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLAND</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
<td>Military Institute for Health Services</td>
<td>2015-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORTUGAL</td>
<td>Lisbon</td>
<td>Hospital da Luz</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
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<td>Institute of Oncology</td>
<td>2017-2022</td>
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<td>SERBIA</td>
<td>Belgrade</td>
<td>Clinical Center of Serbia, Faculty of Medicine University of Belgrade</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
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<td>SWITZERLAND</td>
<td>Lausanne</td>
<td>Lausanne University Hospital</td>
<td>2017-2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURKEY</td>
<td>Istanbul</td>
<td>Istanbul Medical Facult Hospital</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Certificate Image]
Renewal of accreditation (5 year cycle)

UEMS/EBNM Committee

Renewal of Accreditation

Depending on your prior accreditations you can ask for a renewal of „accreditation of your department”, and if applicable also as „Training Center”.

Nuclear Medicine Departments:
- on-line application form

Nuclear Medicine Training Centres:
- on-line application form

Online application
Accreditation Fees

• Accreditation as NM Department
  – First accreditation € 500
  – Reaccreditation € 250 (half-price)

• In addition: Accreditation as NM Training Centre
  – First accreditation + €200
  – Reaccreditation + €100 (half-price)
Summary

• Accreditation as **NM Department** since 2000’s: Benefit through improvement of patient care by standardization of quality

• Accreditation as **NM Training Centre**: satisfies UEMS/EBNM syllabus for teaching NM in all diagnostics and therapeutic procedures

• Alternate pathways to ISO 9001 certification exist (QUANUM or national societies’ clinical audits) and renders UEMS/EBNM accreditation easier
Thank you for your attention!