



QuADRANT – PROJECT OVERVIEW, AIMS AND STRUCTURE

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Background

Clinical Audit

- Well established tool in modern healthcare and quality assurance processes
- Key component of effective clinical governance
- Improves patient care, safety, experience and outcomes
- Clinical audit “in accordance with national procedures” mandated within the updated BSSD, 2013/59/Euratom.

- Previous work by the European Commission (2007/08) → variable (often minimal or absent) clinical audit practice in Member States.
- European Commission publication RP159 → Guidelines on Clinical Audit for Medical Radiological Practices.
- Follow-up work/surveys by the European Commission and national professional societies (ESR) → continuing difficulties in clinical audit implementation.

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European Commission tender no. ENER/D3/2019-231-2

*“Constant Improvement in Quality and Safety of Radiology,
Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine Through Clinical Audit”*

→ ESR successful as lead of a consortium with ESTRO and EANM. Steering group/advisory board.

→ Quality Improvement Through Clinical Audit in
Dagnostic (including Interventional) Radiology,
Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine (Including Therapies).

Project Timelines

- 30 month project
- Commenced January 2020 (Covid March 2020)
- Five WPs (work packages):
 - WP 1 - project administration (months 1 – 30)
 - WP 2 - initial project workshop (and pre-survey) – December 2020
 - WP 3 - project main survey, expert interviews and literature review – Summer 2021
 - WP 4 - second project workshop (present/discuss WP 3 outcomes)
 - WP 5 - final guidance and recommendations document
- Completion - Summer 2022

Project Objectives

1. Review status of implementation of clinical audit in the Member States.
2. Identify good practices and available guidance and resources at national, European and international level.
3. Provide further guidance and recommendations on improving the implementation and integration of clinical audits into national healthcare systems.
4. Identify potential for further co-ordinated EU action on quality and safety of radiology, radiotherapy and nuclear medicine.

Definitions in Use

Clinical audit (BSSD) –

“a systematic examination or review of medical radiological procedures which seeks to improve the quality and outcome of patient care through structured review whereby radiological practices, procedures and results are examined against agreed standards for good medical radiological procedures with modification of practices where indicated and application of new standards if necessary”.

(n.b. definition applicable to all medical applications involving ionizing radiation)

Or

“Improving the quality of patient care by looking at current practice and modifying where necessary”.

Clinical audit:

- High standards of care
- Transparency of responsibility and accountability for standards
- Constant dynamic of improvement (the “cycle”)

Definitions (see WP 3)

- **Self-assessment/evaluation** – a step in preparation for internal clinical audit, the process being undertaken by a multi-disciplinary evaluation team consisting of members of the team being audited.
- **Internal audit** – audit that occurs at a local level (individual, departmental, hospital) on its own initiative and consistent with national requirements.

Definitions

- **Internal audit with external direction** – a system whereby guidance or direction is provided via an external body (e.g. national professional society), allowing co-ordination of audit potentially across multiple departments/hospitals.
- **External audit** – an external auditing team (ideally comprising relevant healthcare professionals) working across a number of centres/hospitals within a region or country.

(n.b. inspection, regulatory audit see later).

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- Important project
- Pan-European implications
- Good engagement
- Potential to improve patient experience and outcomes

Thank you