

*EU JUST CT* 

EU-JUST-CT guidance document  
including practical tools to facilitate the  
justification process

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## **Conflict of Interest**

I do not have any conflict of interest to disclose



## Timeline for Guidance

- November 2022 - 1<sup>st</sup> draft completed
- February 2023 - 1<sup>st</sup> draft circulated to consortium members, Advisory Board members, Steering Group members and comments received
- June 2023 - 2<sup>nd</sup> draft submitted to European Commission (EC)
- Summer 2023 - response to EC comments and 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> drafts prepared
- September 2023 – 5<sup>th</sup> draft presented at EU-JUST-CT Project Workshop
- October/November 2023 - final draft prepared for inclusion in project

## Guidance Contents I

- Introduction
- Euratom BSSD and National Regulations etc – legal requirements
- Education and training
- How the justification process is carried out in practice

## Guidance Contents II

- Practical tools to facilitate and undertake the justification process
- Practical tools to assess the justification process
- Challenges for imaging departments
- The regulator and the imaging department

## Guidance Contents III

- Conclusions
- References
- Appendix – Five practical steps to improving justification in CT imaging



## Section 1 - Introduction

- 1.1 Introduction and background (use, growth and misuse of CT)
- 1.2 Scope, purpose and target audience
  - individual exposures
  - primarily intended for those managing or working in radiology departments

## Section 2 - Euratom BSSD and National Regulations

- 2.1 BSSD requirements (Articles 55, 57 and 62)
- 2.2 BSSD definitions (clinical responsibility, referrer, practitioner)
- 2.3 The justification process
- 2.4 Terminology, roles, entitlement and empowerment, and responsibilities (scope of practice)

## The Justification Process

- Patient presentation
- Patient assessment
- Consideration of imaging to answer clinical question
- Request for imaging based on clinical information
- Appropriate justification and authorisation of CT imaging

**NB** Justification per se is an intellectual activity based on knowledge, experience and should be evidence based



## Section 2 - Euratom BSSD and National Regulations

- 2.4.1 The referrer
- 2.4.2 The practitioner
- 2.4.3 The patient

## Section 3 – Education and Training

- All doctors (and some clinicians) can assess patients
- Not all doctors have up to date knowledge of CT capabilities and radiation dose
- Clinicians involved in CT justification should be adequately trained regarding appropriateness (including use of other modalities), radiation protection and legal responsibilities



## Section 4 – How the Justification Process is Carried Out in Practice

Three scenarios highlight:

- Importance of acting in accordance with roles and responsibilities
- Value of imaging referral guidelines
- Need for dialogue opportunities between referring clinician, radiologist and radiology department staff
- Vetting v justification
- Requirement for recording and attributing actions to individuals

## Section 5 – Practical tools to facilitate and undertake the justification process

- 5.1 Imaging referral guidelines – have them up to date and use them
- 5.2 Clinical Decision Support (CDS) systems – integrate into electronic requesting systems and use as basis for audit

## Section 6 – Practical tools to assess the justification process

- Clinical audit – demonstrates appropriate justification
- ESPERANTO (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)

## Section 7 – Challenges for imaging departments

- Patient expectations
- Public health initiatives
- Resource limitation
- Public v private imaging provision and reimbursement
  
- 7.1 Specific challenges in teleradiology

## Section 8 – The regulator and the imaging department

### *Regulatory compliance by duty holders*

A Karoussou-Schreiner

**NB** in radiological medicine, the clinician's clinical practice is subject to specific regulation



## Section 9 - Conclusions

- Appropriate justification is a key aspect of patient safety, patient outcome and efficient use of resources
- Radiologists need to be involved in setting up systems etc
- Responsibilities are key
- CDS and audit

# EU-JUST-CT Guidance Document

## Section 10 - References

- 32 references included



## Section 11 – Appendix

### Five Practical Steps to Improving Justification in CT Imaging

1. Communicate with referrers
2. Define roles, responsibilities and entitlement for referral and justification
3. Establish policies and procedures for justification
4. Provide imaging referral guidelines or CDS
5. Audit consistency between imaging referral guidelines and referrals

**Thank you for your attention**

