



QuADRANT: constant improvement through clinical audit in radiology, radiotherapy and nuclear medicine.

QuADRANT

ESRF EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGY

An ESR led project on behalf of the European Commission.

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Background:

The European Council Basic Safety and Standards Directive (EC-BSSD) 2013/59/Euratom lays out basic safety standards for radiation protection in radiology departments across EU member states. This was adopted by the European Council for transposition into National member state legislation by early 2018.

The main objective of this Directive is to protect both the public and workers against the dangers that arise from exposure to ionising radiation, (including from radioactive substances) and to improve patient safety outcomes. It emphasises the core principles of radiation protection including justification, optimisation and dose limitation for the various types of exposure. The revised version further emphasises the core principles of radiation protection with a specific focus on compulsory regular clinical audit 'in accordance with national procedures'.

The ESR (European Society of Radiology) and other professional bodies have prioritised improving uptake clinical audit in radiology departments across National Member states in order to increase compliance with the BSSD requirements. A key project which was put out to tender by the European Commission in 2019 named QuADRANT (Constant Improvement in Quality and Safety of Radiology , Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine Through Clinical Audit).

What is QuADRANT:

This 30-month multi-society project is led by the ESR, together with the EANM (European Association of Nuclear Medicine) and ESTRO (European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology) as consortium partners on behalf of the European Commission.

The project is divided into five inter-related work packages (WP1-5), covering specific tasks leading to the common goal of promoting constant improvement in quality and safety of radiology, radiotherapy and nuclear medicine through the implementation of clinical audit as part of Member States' healthcare systems (see diagram below).

QuADRANT Core aims:

- a) Review the status of implementation of clinical audits in the Member States;
- b) Identify good practices in Member States and available guidance and resources for clinical audits, at national, European and international level;
- c) Provide further guidance and recommendations on improving the implementation and integration of clinical audits into national healthcare systems;
- d) Identify potential for further coordinated EU action on quality and safety of radiology, radiotherapy and nuclear medicine.

