BACKGROUND
The EC directive 97/43/EURATOM (MED-directive) introduced the concept of Clinical Audit for the assessment of medical radiological practices, and the Member States are required to implement it in accordance with national procedures. So far there has been high variation between the Member States in the implementation of clinical audits and the need for further guidance has been evident since the conclusions from the first international symposium on Clinical Audit in Tampere 2003.

The EC has established in June 2007 a special project to review in detail the status of implementation of clinical audits in Member States and to prepare Guidance on Clinical Audits. The purpose of the project is to provide clear and comprehensive information on existing procedures and criteria for Clinical Audits in radiological practices (diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy) and to provide guidance on clinical auditing including best possible standardization for an improved implementation of Article 6.4 of the MED-directive. The guidance will enable the Member States to adopt the model of clinical audit with respect to their national legislation and administrative provisions.
OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Workshop will be

• to introduce the purpose and detailed contents of the guidance drafted in the EC project before its publication
• to present critical review of the guidance by invited critical reviewers (outside the project staff)
• to provide a forum for discussions on headline questions in order to review to which extent the stakeholders of the Member States would be willing to accept the proposed guidance for harmonization of clinical audits
• to provide an opportunity to present and exchange information on national systems, experiences and expectations on clinical audits

These objectives will inherently include a motivating element by providing the audience with a better understanding of the purpose and benefits of clinical audits as a tool for improving quality in medical radiation practices. Through a versatile programme, the Workshop will provide the audience with basic information or advice as well as exchange of experiences on clinical auditing, including the criteria for good practices. It will also provide the participants with a good opportunity to give impact on the final adjustment of the guidance to be published.

AUDIENCE

The symposium is addressed to

• all health care professionals of medical radiation practices: prescribers, practioners (radiologists, oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians), consultants, radiographers, medical physicists, heads of department, quality assurance personnel
• representatives of professional societies
• representatives of organizations for clinical audits, accreditations or certifications in health care and auditors for Clinical Audit
• health care and radiation protection authorities
• representatives of patient organizations
VENUE

The workshop will take place at Tampere Hall, Tampere, Finland, see www.tampere-talo.fi/english. Tampere is the third largest city in Finland founded between two lakes in 1779 by Gustav III, the King of Sweden. It is famous in particular for the beautifully restored industrial buildings along the banks of the Tammerkoski rapids that create a unique atmosphere of the city. Tampere Hall was inaugurated in 1990 and is the largest congress and concert centre in Scandinavia.

ORGANIZERS

European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, Directorate H - Nuclear Energy, Luxembourg

The EC Clinical Audit project consortium

Partners

• Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK), Helsinki, Finland (Lead contractor)
• Pirkanmaa Hospital District, Tampere University Hospital (TAUH), Tampere, Finland
• General Medical Council Westfalia-Lippe, Münster/Westfalen, Germany
• British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS), London, United Kingdom
• Radiation protection Centre (RPC), Vilnius, Lithuania
• European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO)

Panel of Scientific Experts

Hannu Järvinen, Seppo Soimakallio, Eliseo Vano, Johannes Nischelsky, Adrian Dixon, András Vargha, Andrew Hilson, Julian Malicki, Hana Stankusova, Michael Brada, Pierre Scalliet, Vincenza Viti, Päivi Wood, Gendrutis Morkūnas

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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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Johannes Nischelsky, Germany
Andrew Hilson, United Kingdom
Julian Malicki, Poland
Hana Stankusova, Czech Republic
Gendrutis Morkūnas, Lithuania

PROGRAMME, PRESENTATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The programme will consist of invited presentations, working group sessions, panel discussions and proffered paper sessions (oral and poster presentations). The topics for proffered papers are national systems for clinical audit and national experiences and expectations on clinical audits. The language of the Workshop will be English. A detailed schedule and further information will be published in the Second Announcement and Call for papers to be issued in January 2008, see www.clinicalaudit.net.