Systematic monitoring and evaluation of work practices - an important aspect of improving radiation safety for patients

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Camilla Larsson
Background

- Inspections performed by the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) have shown that radiographers do not follow basic radiation protection guidelines to reduce the radiation dose to patients.
- Insufficient monitoring of compliance to guidelines by hospital management.
- Systematic monitoring and evaluation of work practices - an important aspect of improving safety for patients.
Basic radiation protection guidelines

- Identity check
- Question if pregnant
- Lead shielding of gonads
- Use of compression
Continuous improvements

- Risk Analysis
- Analysis of events
- Self monitoring
- Documentation
- Measures to make improvements
- Analysis of events
- Self monitoring
- Documentation

Exams when women should be asked about pregnancy? Alternative methods?

Plan

- Risk Analysis

Do

- Analysis of events

Act

- Self monitoring
- Documentation

Check

- Risk Analysis

Check that the guidelines have been followed and that the guidelines are relevant.

Ask question if pregnant, documenting the answer. Take action.

Develop and improve guidelines.

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Exams when women should be asked about pregnancy? Alternative methods?
Performance

- In 2012, 199 radiological departments in Sweden were requested to report on existing guidelines regarding basic radiation protection.
- 13 radiological departments lacked guidelines.
Follow-up in 2013 & 2014

- 94 radiological departments were requested to evaluate their compliance to existing guidelines.
- In 2013, only 33 per cent of participating radiological departments were able to evaluate compliance.
- In 2014, the percentage had increased to 93.
Results

Almost all radiological departments are able to evaluate compliance to existing guidelines.

Average compliance of about 50 per cent - a great potential för improvement.
Comparisons between 2013 & 2014

- Identity check: 98% (2013), 97% (2014)
- Question of pregnancy: 45% (2013), 64% (2014)
- Compression: 35% (2013), 45% (2014)
- Lead shielding of gonads: 52% (2013), 58% (2014)
Thank you for your attention!