

# Nordic Working Group on Medical Applications

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The 'Nordic Working Group on X-ray Diagnostics' was founded in 1978 as a cooperation between the radiation protection authorities in all of the five Nordic countries. In the last couple of years, the scope of the working group has been broadened to include also nuclear medicine and radiotherapy. As a consequence, the name of the working group was changed in 2014 to 'Nordic Working Group on Medical Applications'.

The working group meets annually where the focus is national reports on recent activities and discussions on subjects of common interest. Between meetings the group forms a valuable forum for discussions through email, and a few telephone conferences has also been held. Finally, inspiration for inspection practices are obtained through workshops on inspections and through bilateral exchange of inspectors.

The main focus areas and the outcomes of the working group from the last four years are shown here.

## Examples of issues discussed

- Portable (handheld) x-ray devices
- Cone-Beam CT for dental applications
- Acceptability criteria (implementation of RP162)
- Diagnostic Reference Levels

## Statements

- January 2012; Statement on increased use on computed tomography
- Final draft; Statement on Bismuth shielding of patients in CT examinations.  
Adaptation of 'AAPM Position Statement on the Use of Bismuth Shielding for the Purpose of Dose Reduction in CT scanning'

## Workshops etc.

- Copenhagen, September 2012; 4th Nordic Inspection Workshop – covering x-ray diagnostics, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy
- Stockholm, February 2015; Nordic Workshop on proton therapy
- Helsinki, June 2015; 5th Nordic Inspection Workshop – covering nuclear medicine and radiotherapy
- Malmö, September 2015: A meeting on referral criteria is planned, where also Health authorities and professional radiological societies are invited

## Current focus areas of the group

- National implementation of EU-BSS
- Level 2 justification (level of implementation in Nordic countries)
- Referral guidelines
- Regulatory management of proton therapy units
- Recommendations on shielding of thyroid and gonads
- Automatic dose monitoring in x-ray examinations



### STATEMENT CONCERNING THE INCREASED USE OF COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

#### The Nordic Radiation Protection co-operation

The Nordic radiation protection authorities are concerned about the increased use of computed tomography (CT). They want to draw attention to the potential risks involved and avert unjustified CT examinations by implementing the "triple A" concept: Awareness, Appropriateness and Audit. The Nordic authorities have agreed to issue this joint statement directed to the professional societies and health authorities, notwithstanding the distinct recognition of the large benefits of CT as a diagnostic tool.

#### Introduction

The background for this statement is the increased number of Computed Tomography (CT) scanners taken into use in radiology, which first of all is for the benefit of patients. However, the increase of the diagnostic capacities and capabilities has resulted in a considerable increase in the number of CT procedures (Figure 1).

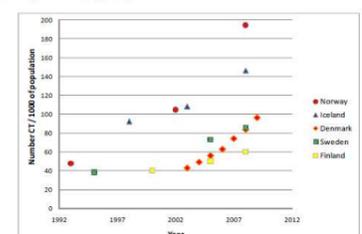


Figure 1. The trends in the number of computed tomography (CT) procedures, per 1000 inhabitants in the Nordic Countries during 1993 to 2010.

