Nordic participation in European Action Week

Inspection of justification in radiology

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Background

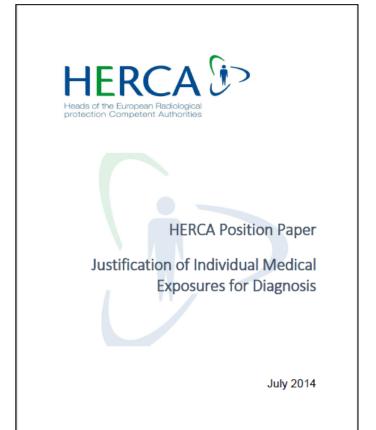
- Justification is one of the fundamental principles in RP
- Its necessity is reinforced in the new EU-BSS Directive and its need for enhanced implementation is addressed in the "Bonn Call for Action" and in the council conclusions on justification by the European Commission
- To be carried out at an individual level before exposure
- Strong indications that 20-30% of medical exposures are unjustified/inappropriate in many economically developed countries



HERCA initiative on justification

Heads of the European Radiological protection Competent Authorities

- Regulatory bodies have an important role in promoting and ensuring that justification is properly implemented at medical imaging facilities
- HERCA position paper on justification of individual medical exposures for Diagnosis
 - Provide clarity on the regulatory framework for justification
 - Justification is not just one action, but a process including many different steps
- HERCA organized a European Action Week on inspection of justification in radiology (2016)





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European Action Week

Coordinated inspection of justification in medical imaging

Purpose

- Assess whether the justification process takes place in the medical imaging facilities
- Identify week links in the justification process
- Increase the awareness on the necessity of justification in medical exposure





Method

- All HERCA countries invited to participate
- To inspect a representative number and type of facilities
- Inspections were notified in advance
- Performed according to a common inspection template
- Inspections based on document review, interviews and observations

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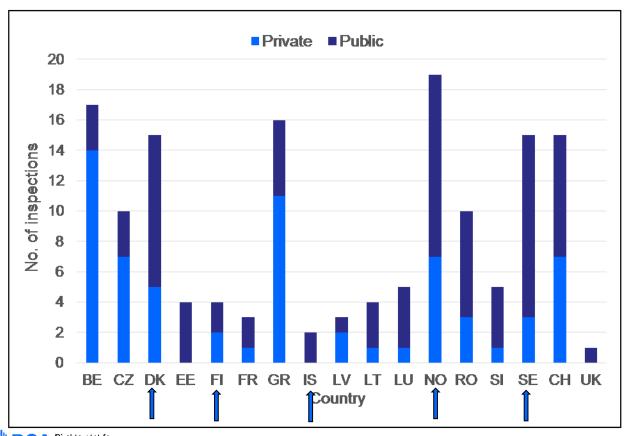
Investigated topics

- Availability of procedures for the justification process (in QA-system)
- Assignment of responsibilities and tasks for justification
- Daily practise for evaluation of referrals
- Availability, awareness and use of referral guidelines
- Procedures for and performance of clinical audits
- Adequate knowledge, competence and training on the process of justification
- Overall quality of referrals
 - Review of 10 referrals per medical facility (5 X-ray, 5 CT)



Results – Participating countries

- Totally 17 countries participated and 148 inspections performed
- Nordic countries accounted for 37% of the inspections (totally 55)
 - Results not representative for Finland and Iceland, due to few inspections



Europe:

Private: 44%

• Public: 56%

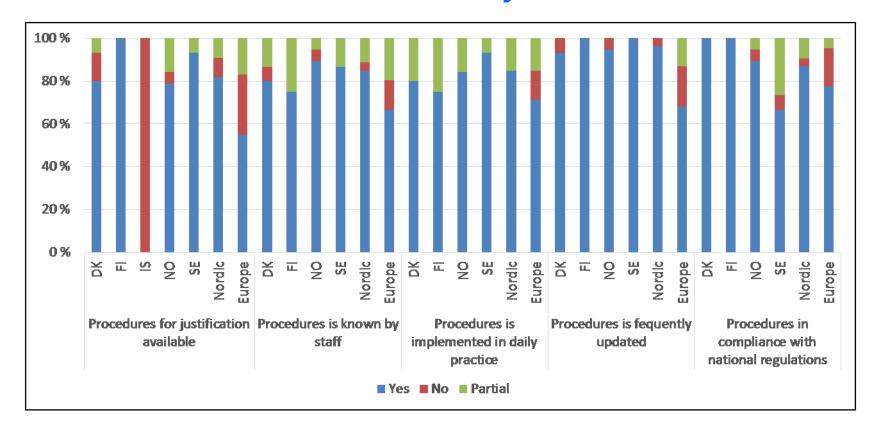
Nordic:

Private: 31%

Public: 69%



Results – Procedures for justification

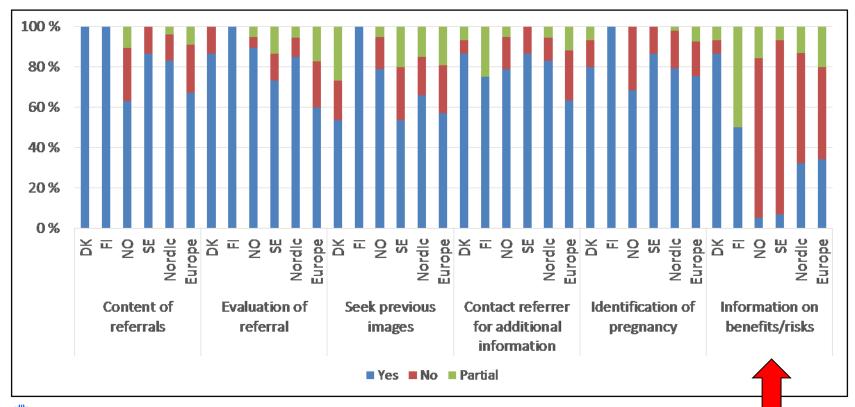


- In general: Procedures for justification were available to a higher degree at facilities in the Nordic countries (82%) compared to European countries (55%)
- Missing procedure: some kind of practical routine were often established



Results – Content of procedures

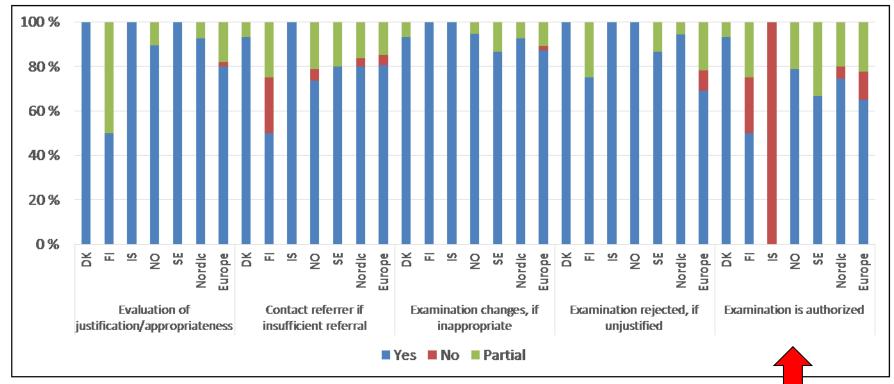
- Most topics identified by HERCA as important for a proper justification process, were covered to some extent by the available procedures
- Information to patient about benefits and risks was poorly addressed





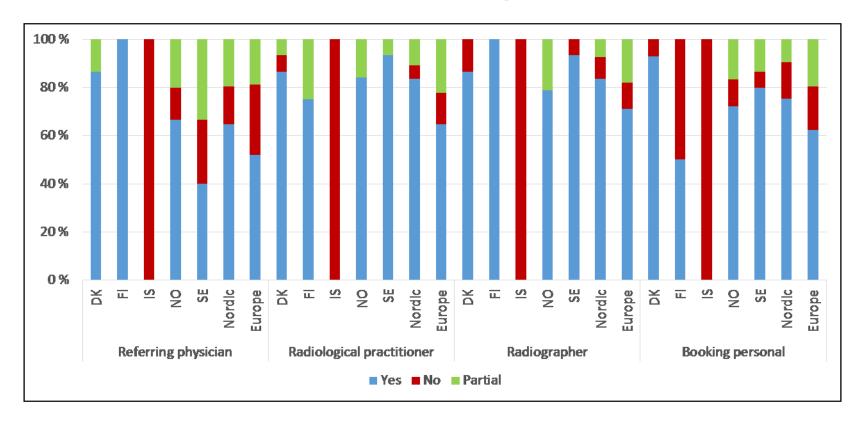
Results – Daily practice on evaluation of referrals

- Most Nordic facilities had established good practice for evaluation of referrals before the examinations were performed
- Still too many inappropriate and unjustified examinations performed
- Practice for communication between practitioner and referrer, and authorization of examinations must be improved





Results – Allocation of responsibilities

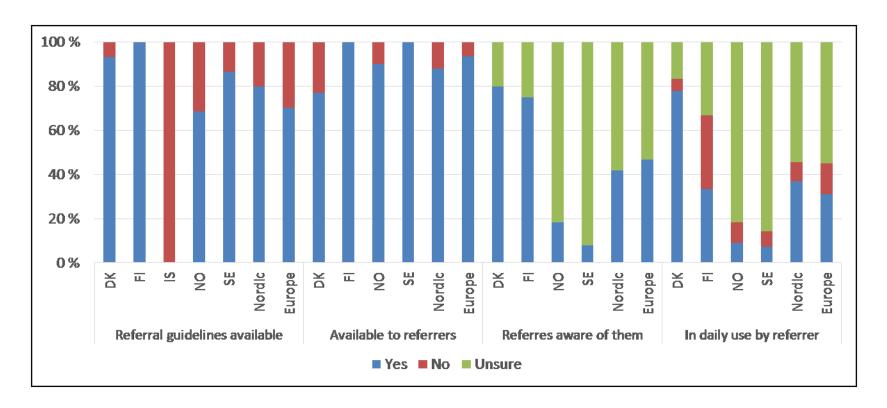


- Allocation of responsibilities among involved staff not clearly defined at all inspected facilities
- Known by staff: Nordic (87%), Europe (76%)
- Documentation of delegation: Nordic (67%), Europe (52%)



Results – Referral guidelines for imaging

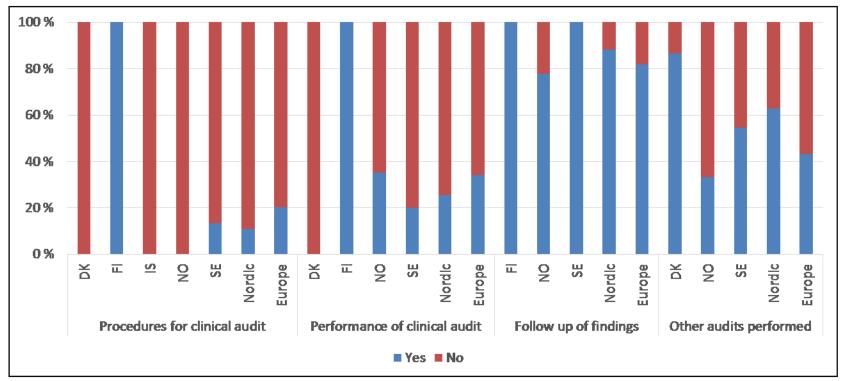
- Referral guidelines were present at most inspected facilities and made available to the referrers (except Iceland)
- Awareness and use were highly unsure in most countries





Results – Clinical audit

- Only Finland has fully implemented the concept of clinical audit among the Nordic countries
- Clinical audits are seldom performed
- If not clinical audit: Other types of audits/revisions were done in a higher degree at Nordic facilities (63%) than European (43%)

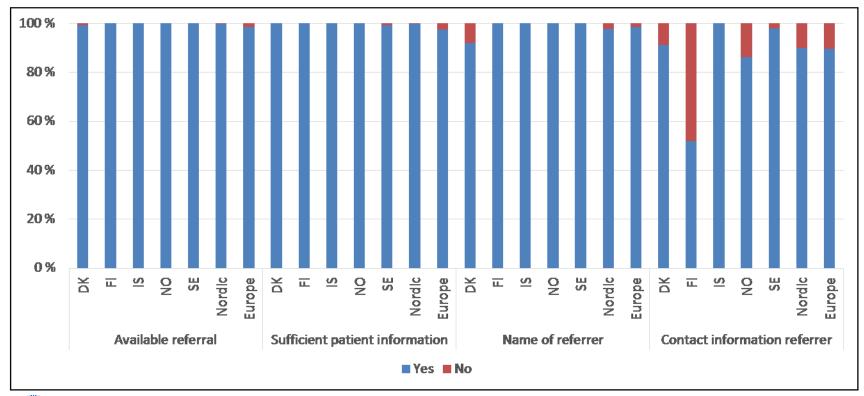


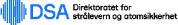


Results – Quality of referral

Administrative information

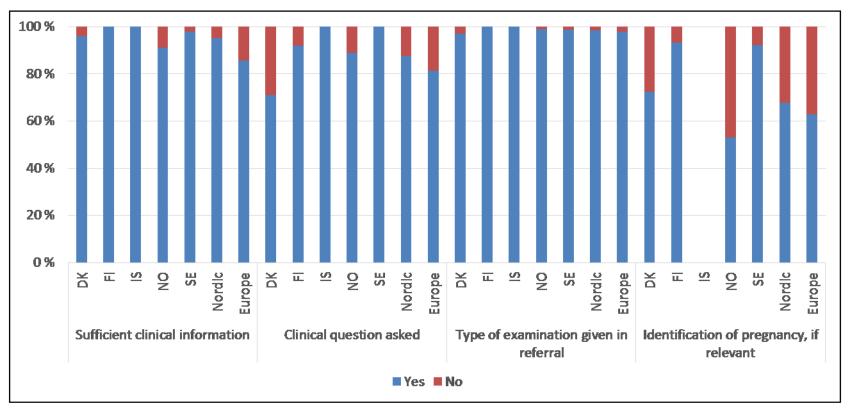
- Referrals were almost always available before exposure
- Quality of administrative information in referrals were good
 - Contact information to referrer were often missing (Finland)





Results – Quality of referral Clinical information

 Overall quality with regards to clinical information could be improved





Conclusions

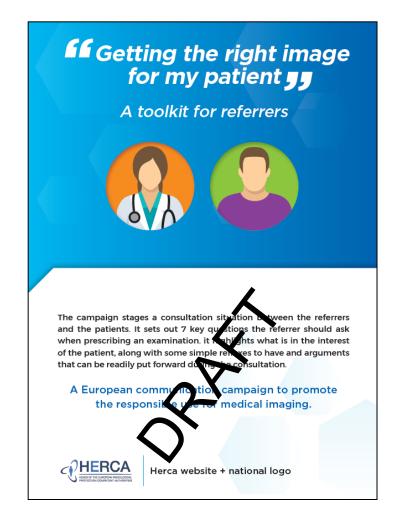
- Implementation of different steps in the justification process varied among countries
- Important that allocation of responsibilities and tasks among health professionals is recognized by the facility management
- Responsibilities and tasks related to the justification process is formalized in written procedures
- Involved staff receive proper training to take on the assigned tasks and responsibilities for justification
- Availability of referral guidelines are still missing in many countries
- The concept of clinical audit is not implemented to a satisfactory level across Europe
- A need to increase awareness and to reiterate the importance of justification in medical imaging



Upcoming HERCA initiative – 2019

European Awareness Week

- Goal: to launch a European awareness initiative in a coordinated process across several European countries focused on the justification of medical imaging involving ionizing radiations
- To be launched on the International Day of Radiology (8th of November 2019)





General flyer to introduce the campaign with the 7 questions