

The Dutch approach to the training in radiation protection of medical doctors

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.1 ABSTRACT

Due to new regulations in the Netherlands a.o. corresponding to the EU-directives, all medical doctors who perform diagnostic or therapeutic procedures with ionising radiation have to train themselves by formal courses followed by an examination.

In the Netherlands these courses for the medical profession are historically concentrated in one Institute, which offers unique possibilities to an uniform approach and has the advantage of gaining cumulative knowledge and educational expertise and gives the possibility to organise regular training courses in a cost-effective way.

Although many MD's like radiologists and radiotherapists and a substantial number of cardiologists and pneumonologists already attended the existing courses of our Institute for many years, the new legislation forced many already graduated and practising MD's to attend a radiation protection course, e.g. anaesthetists, urologists, orthopaedists, surgeons, gastro-enterologists, et cetera. This led to a concerted action of the IRS-Institute in co-operation with the professional organisations of the relevant medical specializations and the involved Ministries, in which more than 1,000 MD's were trained in two years by means of a specially designed training course.

The main purpose of the course is to give a MD the necessary information and tools relevant to his or her possibilities for reducing patient and staff effective doses (ALARA), related to the specific character of the medical procedure (essential required diagnostic image quality). So the starting point has been the MD and his needs and not the classical approach from the health physicists point of view.

In the presentation the approach will be elucidated and examples from the courses will be given, as well as the experience of the MD's.

