

NATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION OFFICE UPDATE 13TH JUNE 2024



RADIATION SAFETY INCIDENTS REPORTED ON THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) Q1 2024

This report details the radiation safety incidents reported on the NIMS from January to March 2024. The figures listed below do not include incidents related to ultrasound, MRI or issues with extravasation of contrast from a peripheral vascular catheter.

1. Category of radiation safety incident

Category of incident	Radiology	Radiotherapy
Harm	6	
Near miss	151	17
No harm	127	46
Total number of reports	284	63

2. Category of person affected by the radiation safety incident

Category of person	Radiology	Radiotherapy
Adult patient / service user	266	63
Staff member	11	
Member of the public	7	

3. Details of the process involved in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q1 2024						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Checking patient identification					37	37
Clinical details on referral					95	95
Documentation / records					35	35
Communication / consent issues					10	10
Equipment failure					22	22
Performing procedure			1	1	40	42
Pregnancy status					4	4
Not applicable					39	39

The 39 reports categorised as *not applicable* refer mainly to issues with clinical referrals, inadvertent staff exposures and equipment failure.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q1 2024						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Clinical details on referral						
Communication / Consent					2	2
Equipment Failure					2	2
Performing Procedure					52	52
Unknown					7	7

The 7 reports categorised as *unknown* refer to mainly to issues which arose when local protocols were not followed.

4. The problems recorded in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q1 2024						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Diagnostic exposure greater than intended					19	19
Dose to comforter and carer > Medical Council guidelines					1	1
General exposure related issue				1	22	23
Failure / malfunction				1	38	39
Wrong body part / side /site					74	74
Wrong patient (>1mSv)					10	10
Wrong patient (<1mSv)					30	30
Wrong process / treatment / procedure			1		38	39
Inadvertent dose to foetus (<1mSv)					1	1
Other / unknown					48	48

The 48 reports categorised as *other / unknown* refer mainly to issues with confirming patient identification, failures in communication within the medical team and poor referral practices.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q1 2024						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Dose or volume variation in one fraction >10% wrt fraction dose					1	1
Wrong process / treatment / procedure					40	40
Other					22	22

The 22 reports categorised as *other* refer mainly to failures in relation to treatment planning and delivery and to issues with communication.