

NATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION OFFICE UPDATE 23RD SEPTEMBER 2021



RADIATION SAFETY INCIDENTS REPORTED ON THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) Q2 2021

This report details all radiation safety incidents reported by hospitals on the NIMS from April to June 2021. The figures listed below do not include incidents related to ultrasound, MRI or issues with peripheral vascular catheters.

During this period, there was extensive disruption to all HSE ICT networks due to an international cyber-attack. Routine access to the NIMS was adversely affected however all services continued to report and manage incidents locally in accordance with HSE policy. Therefore, it must be acknowledged that trending information from this period may be incomplete due to delays in updating the NIMS.

1. Category of radiation safety incident

Category of incident	Radiology	Radiotherapy
Actual incidents	64	1
Near miss events	48	35
Total number of reports	112	36

2. Category of person affected by the radiation safety incident

Category of person	Radiology	Radiotherapy
Adult patient / service user	82	36
Paediatric patient	18	0
New born patient	1	0
Staff member	10	0
Member of the public	1	0

3. Details of the process involved in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2021						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Checking patient identification					13	13
Clinical details on referral					36	36
Documentation / records					11	11
Communication / consent issues					3	3
Equipment failure					14	14
Performing procedure			1	1	21	23
Pregnancy status					1	1
Not applicable / unknown			1		10	11

The 11 reports categorised as *not applicable / unknown* refer to 10 staff exposures and one inadvertent exposure of a member of the public.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2021						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Checking patient identification					2	2
Communication / consent issue					2	2
Equipment failure					13	13
Documentation / records					14	14
Performing procedure					5	5

4. The problems recorded in the radiation safety incidents reported in Q2 2021

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2021						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Diagnostic exposure greater than intended				1	5	6
General exposure related issue					13	13
Failure / malfunction of process			1		19	20
Wrong body part / side /site					43	43
Wrong dose – Nuclear Medicine –under-delivery of prescribed dose by 20%					1	1
Inadvertent dose to foetus (>1mSv)					1	1
Wrong patient (>1mSv)					4	4
Wrong patient (<1mSv)					9	9
Wrong treatment / process / procedure					6	6
Other / unknown			1		8	9

The 9 reports categorised as *not applicable / unknown* refer to incidents which mainly involved the patient identification process, delays in performing diagnostic procedures and patient related issues.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2021						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Failure / malfunction in equipment					2	2
Wrong treatment / process /procedure					31	31
Other					3	3

The 3 reports categorised as *Other* refer to failures in equipment software applications.