

NATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION OFFICE UPDATE 22 SEPTEMBER 2022



RADIATION SAFETY INCIDENTS REPORTED ON THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) Q2 2022

This report details all radiation safety incidents reported on the NIMS from April to June 2022. 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
Actual incidents	138	4
Near miss events	61	53
Total number of reports	198	57

2. Category of person affected by the radiation safety incident

Category of person	Radiology	Radiotherapy
Adult patient / service user	192	57
New born	1	
Staff member	5	

3. Details of the process involved in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2022						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Checking patient identification					22	22
Clinical details on referral					62	62
Documentation / records					20	20
Communication / consent issues			1		5	6
Equipment failure					26	26
Performing procedure					27	27
Pregnancy status					1	1
Not applicable / unknown				1	33	34

The 35 reports categorised as *not applicable / unknown* refer to various types of clerical errors, errors by the radiographer when positioning the patient for a procedure and two inadvertent staff exposures.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2022						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Communication / consent					2	2
Documentation / records					35	35
Equipment failure					5	5
Performing procedure					15	15

4. The problems recorded in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2022						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Diagnostic exposure greater than intended					22	22
General exposure related issue					25	25
Failure / malfunction of process					33	33
Wrong body part / side /site					36	36
Wrong dose NM 10-20% greater than intended					1	1
Wrong drug (radiopharmaceutical)					1	1
Wrong patient (>1mSv)					9	9
Wrong patient (<1mSv)					19	19
Wrong process / treatment / procedure					7	7
Other / unknown			1	1	43	45

The 45 reports categorised as *other / unknown* refer mainly to incidents which involved incorrect or absent clinical details on referrals, incorrect patient identification and communication failures within the local multidisciplinary teams.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2022						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Failure / malfunction in equipment					5	5
Wrong treatment / process /procedure					51	51
Dose or volume variation in one fraction >10% wrt fraction dose					1	1