

## NATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION OFFICE UPDATE 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023



### RADIATION SAFETY INCIDENTS REPORTED ON THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) Q2 2023

This report details the radiation safety incidents reported on the NIMS from April to June 2023. 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	16	1
Near miss	141	25
No harm	158	47
Total number of reports	<b>315</b>	<b>73</b>

#### 2. Category of person affected by the radiation safety incident

Category of person	Radiology	Radiotherapy
Adult patient / service user	307	73
Staff member	8	

#### 3. Details of the process involved in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2023						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Checking patient identification					20	<b>20</b>
Clinical details on referral			1		99	<b>100</b>
Documentation / records					35	<b>35</b>
Communication / consent issues					10	<b>10</b>
Equipment failure				2	43	<b>45</b>
Performing procedure			2		62	<b>64</b>
Pregnancy status					1	<b>1</b>
Not applicable / unknown				1	39	<b>40</b>

There were 40 reports where the process was categorised as *not applicable / unknown*. The majority of these cases referred to communication failures, patient identification issues or incorrect details recorded on the referrals.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2023						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Clinical details on referral					2	2
Communication / consent					9	9
Documentation / records					29	29
Equipment failure					3	3
Performing procedure					28	28
Pregnancy status					1	1
Unknown					1	1

The report categorised as '*Unknown*' refers to an administrative failure in the treatment scheduling process.

#### 4. The problems recorded in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2023						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Diagnostic exposure greater than intended			1		19	20
General exposure related issue				1	19	20
Failure / malfunction of process				2	70	72
Inadvertent dose to foetus (< 1mSv)					1	1
Wrong body part / side /site			1		112	113
Wrong patient (>1mSv)					7	7
Wrong patient (<1mSv)					20	20
Wrong process / treatment / procedure					27	27
Other / unknown			1		34	35

The 35 reports where the problem was categorised as *other / unknown* refer mainly to incomplete or inappropriate referrals, administrative failures and communication issues within the medical team.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q2 2023						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Dose or volume variation in one fraction > 20% wrt fraction dose					1	<b>1</b>
Total dose or volume variation >20% wrt total prescribed dose					1	<b>1</b>
Failure / malfunction in equipment					3	<b>3</b>
Wrong body part/ site / side					1	<b>1</b>
Wrong treatment / process /procedure					37	<b>37</b>
Other					30	<b>30</b>

The 30 reports where the problem was categorised as *other* refer in the main, to issues with performing the procedure, treatment planning matters and administrative failures.