

NATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION OFFICE UPDATE 26TH NOVEMBER 2020



RADIATION SAFETY INCIDENTS REPORTED ON THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) Q3 2020

This report details all radiation safety incidents reported by hospitals on the NIMS from July to September 2020. The figures listed below do not include incidents related to ultrasound, MRI or issues with peripheral vascular catheters.

1. Category of radiation safety incident

Category of incident	Radiology	Radiotherapy
Actual incidents	162	24
Near miss events	59	72
Total number of reports	221	96

2. Category of person affected by the radiation safety incident

Category of person	Radiology	Radiotherapy
Adult / service user	201	96
New born	2	0
Staff member inadvertently exposed to radiation	18	0

3. Details of the process involved in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q3 2020						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Checking patient identification					26	26
Clinical details on referral					44	44
Documentation / records				1	20	21
Communication / consent issues					9	9
Equipment failure					28	28
Performing procedure			1	1	71	73
Pregnancy status					1	1
Not applicable / unknown			1		18	19

The 19 processes categorised as *not applicable / unknown* refer to inadvertent staff exposures, mainly practitioners not wearing personal protective equipment, staff entering a room during a procedure or spillage of a radioactive material for injection.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q3 2020						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Checking patient identification					2	2
Equipment					8	8
Documentation / records					36	36
Performing procedure					50	50

4. The problems recorded in the radiation safety incidents reported in Q3 2020

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q3 2020						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Diagnostic exposure greater than intended				1	32	33
General exposure related issue					16	16
Failure / malfunction of process					40	40
Wrong body part / side /site					22	22
Inadvertent deterministic effect					1	1
Wrong patient (>1mSv)					12	12
Wrong patient (<1mSv)					22	22
Wrong treatment / process / procedure					22	22
Not applicable / unknown			1	1	51	53

The 53 reports categorised as *Not applicable / unknown* refer to incidents which involved staff exposures, failures in the administrative process and incidents which, from the description provided, did not appear to fit into one category on the NIMS menu.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q3 2020						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Failure / malfunction of process					3	3
Wrong treatment / process /procedure					66	66
Other					27	27

The 27 reports categorised as *Other* relate to 15 documentation issues regarding referrals to private hospitals, 9 issues which occurred regarding the performance of procedures, 1 equipment failure and 2 patient identification issues.