

NATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION OFFICE UPDATE 15 DECEMBER 2022



RADIATION SAFETY INCIDENTS REPORTED ON THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) Q3 2022

This report details all radiation safety incidents reported on the NIMS from July to September 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
Harm	7	
Near miss	91	25
No harm	127	21
Total number of reports	225	46

2. Category of person affected by the radiation safety incident

Category of person	Radiology	Radiotherapy
Adult patient / service user	209	46
New born	4	
Staff member	11	
Member of the public	1	

3. Details of the process involved in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q3 2022						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Checking patient identification					15	15
Clinical details on referral					80	80
Documentation / records					26	26
Communication / consent issues					5	5
Equipment failure					23	23
Performing procedure			2		40	42
Pregnancy status					3	3
Not applicable / unknown					31	31

The 31 reports categorised as *not applicable / unknown* refer to incidents resulting from delays in performing procedures, administrative errors, inadvertent staff exposures and failures in communication.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q3 2022						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Communication / consent					2	2
Documentation / records					29	29
Equipment failure					2	2
Performing procedure					13	13

4. The problems recorded in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q3 2022						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Diagnostic exposure greater than intended					16	16
General exposure related issue					22	22
Failure / malfunction of process					33	33
Wrong body part / side /site					64	64
Inadvertent dose to foetus (<1mSv)					1	1
Inadvertent dose to foetus (>1mSv)					1	1
Wrong drug (radiopharmaceutical)					1	1
Wrong patient (>1mSv)					7	7
Wrong patient (<1mSv)					12	12
Wrong process / treatment / procedure			2		31	33
Other / unknown					35	35

The 35 reports categorised as *other / unknown* refer mostly to failures in communication, incorrect patient identification and issues with inappropriate or incorrect referrals.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q3 2022						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Failure / malfunction in equipment					2	2
Wrong treatment / process /procedure					41	41
Dose or volume variation in one fraction >10% wrt fraction dose					1	1
Other					2	2

The two reports categorised as *other* refer to patient related issues.