

NATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION OFFICE UPDATE 14 MARCH 2024



RADIATION SAFETY INCIDENTS REPORTED ON THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) Q4 2023

This report details the radiation safety incidents reported on the NIMS from October to December 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	11	
Near miss	95	51
No harm	101	50
Total number of reports	207	101

2. Category of person affected by the radiation safety incident

Category of person	Radiology	Radiotherapy
Adult patient / service user	191	101
New Born	1	
Paediatric	1	
Staff member	13	
Member of the public	1	

3. Details of the process involved in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q4 2023						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Checking patient identification				1	16	17
Clinical details on referral					74	74
Documentation / records					20	20
Communication / consent issues					8	8
Equipment failure					21	21
Performing procedure			1	1	36	38
Pregnancy status					1	1
Not applicable / unknown				1	27	28

The 28 reports categorised as *not applicable / unknown* refer to inadvertent staff exposures and poor referral practices.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q4 2023						
Process	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Clinical details on referral					1	1
Communication / Consent					4	4
Documentation / Records					22	22
Equipment Failure					2	2
Performing Procedure					68	68
Treatment / Intervention					1	1
Unknown					3	3

The 3 reports categorised as '*Unknown*' refer to two issues with incorrect documentation and one scheduling failure.

4. The problems recorded in the incidents.

Radiology incidents reported on the NIMS in Q4 2023						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Diagnostic exposure greater than intended					24	24
General exposure related issue					20	20
Failure / malfunction				1	28	29
Wrong body part / side /site				1	65	66
Wrong patient (>1mSv)					6	6
Wrong patient (<1mSv)					12	12
Wrong process / treatment / procedure					28	28
Inadvertent dose to foetus (>1)					1	1
Wrong radiopharmaceutical					1	1
Other / unknown			1	1	18	20

The 20 reports categorised as *other / unknown* refer to delays in treatment due to communication failures, administrative issues and inadvertent staff exposures.

Radiotherapy incidents reported on the NIMS in Q4 2023						
Problem	Severity Rating					Total
	Extreme	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Delay					1	1
Exposure greater than intended					1	1
Failure / Malfunction					2	2
Wrong body part / site / side					2	2
Wrong process / treatment / procedure / intervention					60	60
Other					35	35

The 35 reports categorised as *Other* refer mainly to issues with treatment planning and delivery, and failures to document all relevant medical information on the referrals.