



31st European Inspection Workshop  
HERCA MedInspector 2015

# Inspecting justification in medical imaging

## WG 3 report

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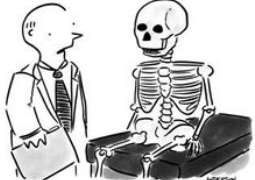
# WG 3





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Marina      Marina      Elina      Marina

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**An estimated 20-30% of all medical imaging exposures are unjustified...**




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"Still, let's do an x-ray just to be sure."

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# It's a scandal! We're horrified



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## Inspecting justification

### Situation at present

- Justification is **top priority...** or at least should be, because it's a real issue
- Very few radiation protection authorities (countries?) actually inspect on justification
- Often Min Health responsible (can be decentralised, regional): but do they really inspect with regard to justification?
- General feeling: lack of competences to inspect this in HERCA member organisations



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## Inspecting justification

### How can we improve?

- **BSS (art 55, 2) : MS shall ensure that justification principle is applied**
  - Role and responsibility assignment of different authorities + how they interact/collaborate
- **BSS (art 55, 2, d) : MS to specify involvement of referrer and practitioner in justification process:**
  - Role and responsibility assignment of health care professionals (generic, most often at national level)
  - Practical aspects can be delegated to individuals entitled to act in this respect in a recognized field of specialisation (decentralised, local)


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Inspecting justification

## How can we improve?

- Roles and responsibilities need to be underpinned by competences
  - **Formal competence:** legal empowerment by regulatory work , e.g. access of inspector to patient-related information
  - **Technical competence:** E&T: knowledge, skills, attitudes + CPD

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Inspecting justification


## How can we improve?


Even where competence is lacking, still a lot any inspector can do:

- If no access to patient data for reasons of confidentiality, ask for anonymized data
- check if procedures with respect to justification process exist, verify if these are known, applied
- External expertise: make use of audit findings, call upon consultant, exchange expert inspectors...

In the long run, **recruit, or convert existing staff until required inspector profile is fully met**

- extend, update and continuously improve their technical competence

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## How to improve the situation?

### Level 2 justification

- Important to create awareness on radiation risks with **other authorities** within our countries:
  - Health Technology Assessment organisation
  - Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices competent authorities
  - Min of Health, Social Security
- Consider **patient protection but also occupational**
- When inspecting **new equipment or procedure:** ask for QA procedures, verify medico-scientific and radiologic underpinning of what they are doing and how they do it

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We should do something about it

## The time is right:

- Transposition of the BSS: great opportunity
- Drafting of EU Council conclusions on justification of medical imaging involving exposure to ionising radiation (initiative of Luxembourg Presidency, ongoing)
- Nov 8, 2015, Radiology Day: ISRRT focussing on RP
- March 4-8, 2016: ECR with focus session on RP
- March 10, 2016 HERCA multi-stakeholder meeting

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Proposal for a HERCA initiative  
(subject to HERCA Board approval)

## European action week:

### Inspection of justification in medical imaging

Nov 8-15, 2016

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## European action week


### Inspection of justification in medical imaging

Preliminary ideas

- Starts on radiology day 2016
- Inspections in all HERCA member countries, same "template"
- Simultaneous awareness creating/stimulating initiatives: press
- Partnerships: WHO, IAEA, EC (Ener, Sante, Research), professional stakeholders (ESR, EANM, EFRS,...): pre-announcements at ECR, HERCA MSM,....
- Launch of a real research project: magnitude of the justification issue?
- Etc.

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 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RADIOLOGY  
AN INITIATIVE OF THE RSNA, ESR AND ACR

Ministerie van  
H.RCA Inspectoraat

# Thanks for your attention



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