

# HERCA activities relating to medical applications

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## HERCA

- Founded in 2007
- Voluntary association
- 56 radiation protection authorities from 33 European countries
- HERCA works on topics generally covered by provisions of the EURATOM Treaty
- Goal: contribute to a high level of radiological protection throughout Europe
- HERCA identifies common interests on significant regulatory issues and proposes practical solutions for these issues

## Working group on medical applications – WGMA

WGMA covers all radiation protection issues concerning medical applications of ionising radiation for diagnosis and therapy.

### Current Work Packages

- Inspection competences
- Equipment
- Awareness in Medical exposure
- Clinical audit

### Previous work

- Individual justification
- Stakeholder involvement with CT manufacturers
- Generic justification
- Accidental and Unintended Exposures

For these topics a number of HERCA position papers were published and can be found on the [www.herca.org](http://www.herca.org)



The WGMA has and is paying particular consideration to the transposition and implementation of the 2013/59 Euratom Directive.

## Individual justification in radiology

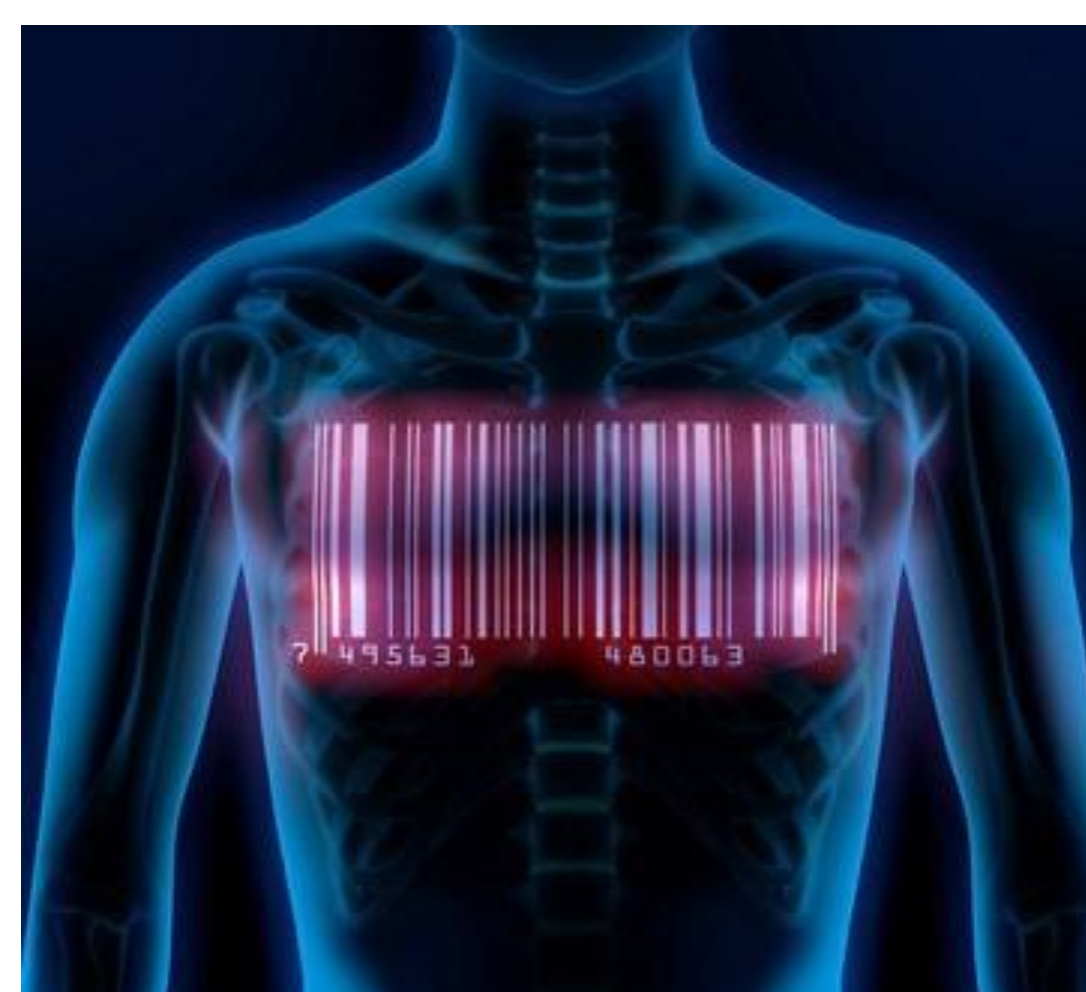
- A HERCA Position paper « Justification of Individual Medical Exposures for Diagnosis » (2014)
- A multi-stakeholder meeting (2014)
- Poster at ECR (2015)

- **A MedInspector workshop (2015)**  
“How to inspect justification and optimisation in diagnostic radiology “  
for inspectors from competent authorities from all over Europe.

Goal = to exchange practises and experiences on how to inspect justification and optimization. Recommendations and good practices on practical aspects were identified.

- **A European Action Week (2016)**  
“Inspection of justification in radiology “  
18 participating countries using a common template for their inspections.

An analysis was performed at a European level and was presented at the “International Conference on Radiation Protection in Medicine: Achieving Change in Practice (2017)“.



- Currently the WGMA is working on an **awareness campaign** regarding this subject.

## Generic Justification Accidental or unintended exposures

- A multi-stakeholder workshop in October 2016 on
  - ✓ Generic Justification
  - ✓ Accidental or unintended exposures
 with 44 participants amongst which 12 participants from European and international stakeholder organisations.
- A position paper was published on both subjects (2017).

All information presented during the workshop is also freely available on the HERCA website:  
[www.herca.org](http://www.herca.org) > Activities > Medical Applications.1



## Clinical audits

Clinical audit has been the subject of many internal discussions and exchanges with several professional organisations (ESR, EANM, ESTRO) have taken place. A document summarising these discussions is currently under preparation.

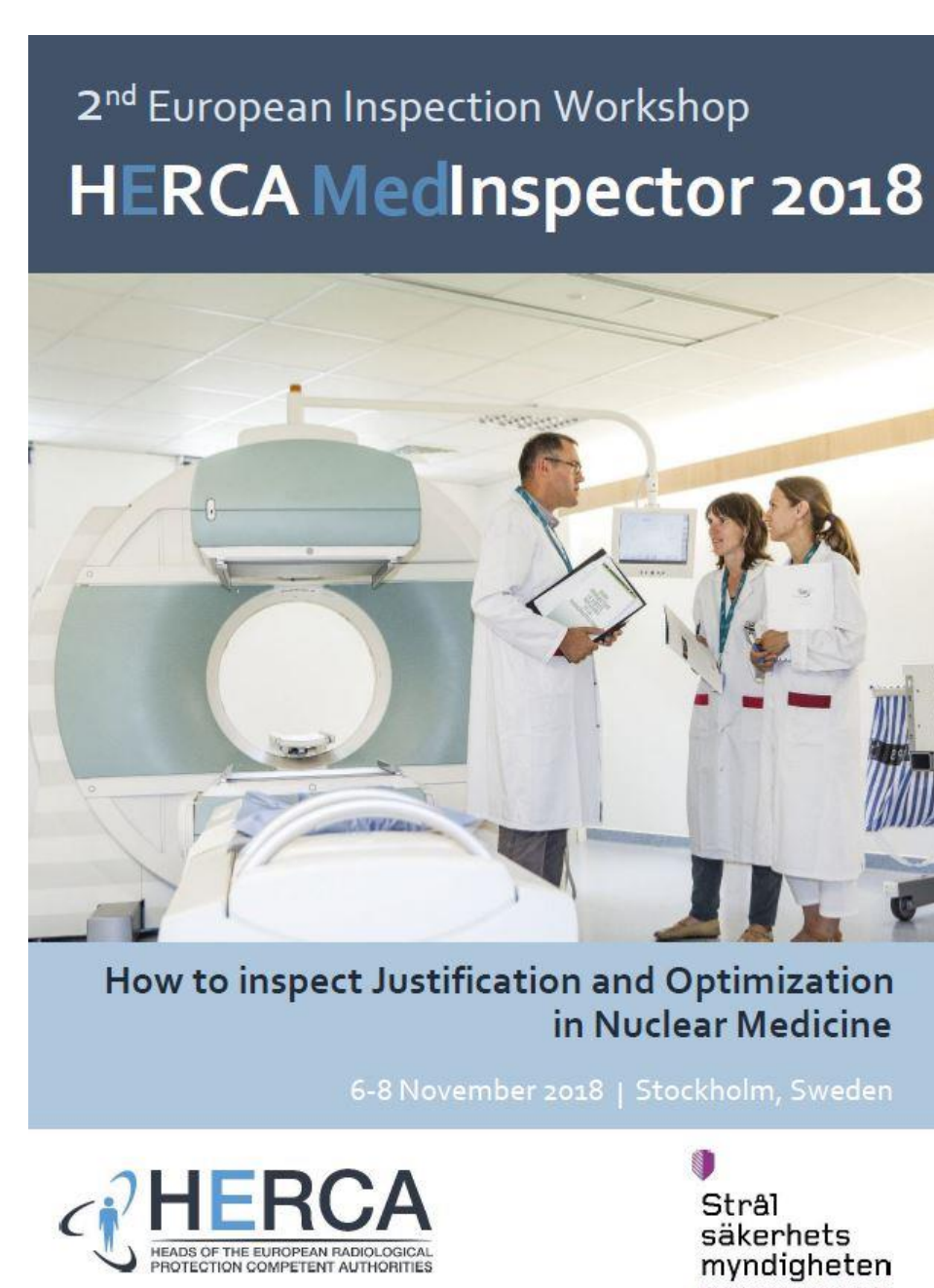
## Inspection by the competent authorities

### MedInspector workshops

- First topic: diagnostic radiology (workshop in 2015, action week 2016)
- Second topic: nuclear medicine (workshop in 2019)

### Future projects

- Continue to work on nuclear medicine issues
- Start on radiation therapy (including proton therapy) regarding patient and occupational exposures.



## Medical Equipment

In 2010 WGMA started regular exchanges with the manufacturers of medical devices through COCIR in 2010

- in first instance: the optimised use of CT devices.
  - ✓ three multi-stakeholder meetings took place in 2015, 2016 and 2017
  - ✓ a position paper « The process of CT dose optimisation through education and training and the role of CT manufacturers » (2014)
  - ✓ a final report on the manufacturers stakeholder involvement (2017)
  - ✓ a poster at ECR (2018).



- Current work: the implementation of articles 63 and 78 (2) of 2013/59/EURATOM

## Conclusions

Since 2010, the WGMA has organized more than 5 multi stakeholder workshops, 2 inspector workshops, 1 common action week on inspection of justification in radiology, and has published 10 position papers. The WGMA provides through these position papers tools to assist in the proper transposition and implementation of EU Directive-requirements. This includes the individual justification as well as justification of new types or classes of practices and the accidental and unintended exposures. All HERCA papers are freely available on the HERCA website: [www.herca.org](http://www.herca.org)