

## **A Radiologist's Perspective on the Governance of IR(ME)R**

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Clinical governance is every one's responsibility for quality assurance, quality improvement and risk management. Accountability rests with the employer but practical aspects are best addressed by duty holders and experts.

For justification, the principles of autonomy, non-maleficence, beneficence and justice apply to all patients, all occupationally exposed workers and the public. The aim is to provide appropriate, equitable and evidence-based practice. For optimisation, application of the ALARA principle (as low as reasonably achievable) must take into account the clinical question asked, and the image quality sufficient for diagnosis. For dose limitation, monitoring, alerts, and safeguards are usefully built in with dose constraints below the dose limit.

Practical points for achieving good governance include: use of imaging referral guidelines/clinical decision support systems; diagnostic reference levels based on clinical indications; and biomedical research protocols with dose constraints. Clinical audit is a simple, effective, and accepted method for monitoring with recourse to intervention for improvement or demonstration of good practices.

Rarely, if ever, is good governance the result of departmental managers alone. All duty holders and experts work best synergistically to provide best practice, usually under the leadership and guidance of a team of radiation protection *champions* including medical physics expert, radiographer and radiologist. Standards and guidance are available at local, national, and international levels. When best practices become everyday practices, the concept of a *radiation safety culture* will have been achieved.

## **Applying for MPE Certification: Guidance for Applicants and Managers**

Peter Marsden. Director, RPA 2000 Ltd

This presentation will give a brief summary of how the MPE Certification Scheme works and provide information on performance to date. It will cover some of the challenges, past and present. The primary purpose of the presentation, however, is to offer guidance to managers in supporting their applicants and to applicants themselves, with the intention of ensuring everyone is aware of how best to construct a good portfolio.

## **The Ongoing Recognition of MPEs**

Peter Marsden. Director, RPA 2000 Ltd

The February 2018 “Statement on how the DHSC will recognise Medical Physics Experts in radiation safety” gives detail on the initial recognition of competence of individuals to act as MPEs, and on how MPEs already practising before formal recognition was required would be transitioned. As agreed with DHSC, all MPE certificates issued by RPA 2000 have a 5-year expiry date, pending agreement with DHSC as to how ongoing recognition will be achieved.

IPEM’s Accreditation Working Party, comprising representatives of the relevant SIGs and RPA 2000, have developed a proposal for ongoing recognition, which has been agreed by the Board of RPA 2000. This presentation will give detail of the ongoing recognition scheme proposed and an update on DHSC’s response.