Workshop on radiological protection culture in medicine

Plenary Session IV

Stakeholders’ point of view: 5 key issues for developing a RPCM

Heads of European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities (HERCA)

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HERCA, the Heads of European Radiological protection Competent Authorities, was founded in 2007.

It is a voluntary association in which the heads of the Radiation Protection Authorities work together in order to identify and discuss common interests in significant regulatory issues within RP.

Member Countries: 31
(28 MS + IS, NO, CH)

Observers: 4
(EC, FDA, IAEA, WHO)
**HERCA as a Voluntary Association**

**Structure:**
- **Board of Heads**
  - Managerial level
- **Technical Secretariat**
- **Working Groups (WG):**
  - Technical level / senior experts
    - Emergencies
    - Medical Applications
    - Non medical sources & practices
    - Radiation passbook & Outside workers
    - Veterinary
- **Task Forces (TF):**
  - Technical level / senior experts
  - HERCA Policies (Approved October 2014)
  - Ongoing
    - Update HERCA‘s policies
    - Transposition of the Euratom BSS
    - Education & Training in RP

**Chairmanship:**
- Mr MAGNUSSON, IRSA, Iceland 2012 - 2018
- Mr HARBITZ, NRPA, Norway 2008 – 2011
- Mr LACOSTE, ASN, France 2007-2008
RPCM from a regulatory point of view

- A good RPCM ensure for a proper implementation and daily compliance with the principles of justification and optimization and must be in continuously development
- The present and quality of a RPCM is highly dependent on the local beliefs, attitudes and behaviours among all members of the organization

Role of the regulators

- Provide a sufficient national RP framework, based on the IAEA/EU-BSS, to foster the local development of a RPCM
- RPCM can not be regulated but the regulators can inspect if a RPCM is developed and present within the organization
5 key issues for establishing a RPCM from HERCA’s point of view
1. Awareness and attitude

- Proper education and training is essential to raise awareness of radiation risk and establish a positive attitude towards RP.
- To accept and believe that radiation is associated with danger and to handle radiation with respect.
- Proper risk communication with colleagues, patients and society.

**HERCA-initiatives:**

- Foster a change in attitude towards RP by increasing the awareness and level of education through our activities:
  - Discussions, surveys, organizing and hosting stakeholder meetings and workshops and publishing position papers on key issues.
  - Participating in European/international meetings, workshops, conferences presenting HERCAs point of view.
2. RP in management and QA-system

• RP, justification and optimization must be implemented in hospitals management and QA-systems, and be of high priority

• Strong leadership focusing on RP and responsibilities clearly defined within the whole organization (top-down)

• Assessment by internal/external audits to evaluate attitude and level of implementation in daily work to identify areas of improvements

HERCA-initiatives:

• Promoting regulatory bodies to perform inspections to verify local implementation

• Facilitate sufficient inspector competence
  – UK inspector training courses (PHE)
  – HERCA Inspector Workshop in diagnostic radiology
  – Planned European Action Week – Inspection on justification
3. Reporting events, learning, improving

- Local system for reporting and follow-up events, with a no blame policy
- Local evaluation and feedback systems to learn from events
- Lesson learned as input to risk-assessment and training for continuous improvement (involvement of all workers)
- EU-BSS: Significant events to be reported to competent authorities

HERCA-initiatives:
- Established a WP on reporting events
- Working on a position paper and planning for an upcoming workshop with stakeholders
4. Strengthen the role of manufacturers

- Manufacturers have an important role in providing safe and optimized equipment, to develop dose reducing tools and to provide proper training and education in using the equipment, including RP issues.

**HERCA-initiatives:**

- Established good cooperation with CT manufacturers & COCIR.
- Underlined their responsibilities in dose reduction, ending up with a voluntary self-commitment on important issues such as dose reducing tools, dose management and reporting tools, curricula in RP.
5. Strengthen involvement of professional societies

- European professional societies has an important role in RP, especially when it comes to proper implementation of justification and optimization

**HERCA-initiatives:**

- Developed a good and transparent communication with stakeholders
- Provided position papers on justification and optimization
- Arranging multi-stakeholder meetings (MSM) to establish a platform for communication with and between stakeholders
- MSM with focus on justification and optimization (2 performed, next in spring 2016)
- Promoting the concept of self-commitments among European professional societies to commit themselves to act on identified tasks to ensure for proper justification and optimization
HERCA’s role in medical RP

- HERCA has **no statutory role** in relation to medical radiation protection in Europe.

- Never-the-less, HERCA can be a **positive force** by:
  - raising **awareness** on radiation protection issues,
  - acting as a **platform** to identify such issues, to develop a common understanding and to explore common approaches,
  - promoting **good practices** among its member countries,
  - facilitating the involvement of important **stakeholders**,
  - providing **guidance** where appropriate and feasible,
  - being a **resource for competent authorities** in its member countries,
  - acting as an interested stakeholder with the **European Commission**, and
  - adding value to areas involving **trans-boundary processes**.