IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency

Technical Meeting on Strengthening of Safety Culture in Radiotherapy through the Use of Incident Learning Systems

IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

10–13 October 2017

Ref. No.: J1-TM-1600015

Information Sheet

A. Introduction

Radiotherapy has long been an effective way of treating cancer and it is estimated that 50–60% of patients with cancer would benefit from radiotherapy. Expanding radiotherapy into areas currently with limited access has the potential to save a great number of lives, but it is mandatory that the expansion be done with safety in mind, considering the complexity of this high-technology treatment modality and the potential for serious consequences when something goes wrong. It is worth considering that there have been more deaths and early acute health effects due to radiation accidents in medical uses than due to any other source, including accidents at nuclear facilities.

While there is a broad agreement among experts that radiotherapy is a very safe form of treatment, where more than 5 million treatments are delivered annually in the world, there is also recognition that safety measures need to be further enhanced at several levels for this complex and rapidly developing medical specialty. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has developed a voluntary safety reporting and learning system called SAFRON (‘Safety in Radiation Oncology’), intended to incorporate elements of sharing safety reports, safety analysis and learning, and prospective risk analysis, as well as linking with national and local reporting systems in order to make radiotherapy safety information more accessible. SAFRON was released for general use in December 2012 and has been expanded to include external beam and brachytherapy events, statistical analysis capabilities and recent capabilities to include prospective analysis, using retrospective analysis of the SAFRON events.

This meeting will identify opportunities to further the radiation protection and safety efforts of the IAEA's Radiation Protection of Patients Unit aimed at strengthening safety culture through the use of incident learning systems.

B. Objectives

The purpose of the meeting is to provide Member States as well as international, regional and national organizations with an opportunity to evaluate and discuss the use of incident learning systems and how the information gained from these can be used to strengthen safety culture in radiotherapy.

The meeting will explore different ways of using incident learning systems, how they can be improved and how they can strengthen safety culture in radiotherapy. The meeting is expected to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas on how incident learning systems can be most efficiently used to strengthen radiotherapy protection and patient safety.

C. Target Audience

Radiotherapy professionals, medical professional organizations, regulatory bodies, manufacturers and others with an interest in radiation protection and patient safety in radiotherapy.

D. Working Language

English

E. Application Procedure

Designations should be submitted through InTouch+ (https://Intouchplus.iaea.org) or using the attached **Participation Form (Form A)**. Completed requests should be endorsed by the competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA, or National Atomic Energy Authority), or by an organization invited to participate, and returned through the established official channels. They must be received by the IAEA not later than **28 August 2017**. Designations received after that date or applications sent directly by individuals or by private institutions cannot be considered. Designating Governments and invited organizations will be informed in due course of the names of the selected candidates and at that time full details will be given on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

F. Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants. The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the meeting. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Such assistance may be offered upon specific request to **one or more participants** per country provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant(s) on whose behalf assistance is requested will make an important contribution to the meeting. The application for financial support should be made at the time of designating the participant(s). If Governments wish to apply for a grant on behalf of one of their experts, they should address specific requests to the IAEA to this effect. Governments should ensure that applications for grants are submitted by **28 August 2017** through InTouch+ (https://Intouchplus.iaea.org) or using a signed **Grant Application Form (Form C)**. Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually covers **only part of the cost of attendance**.

G. Venue

The meeting will be held at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, and will start on **Tuesday, 10 October 2017**. Participants are advised to arrive one hour prior to the convening time of the meeting to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the premises of the Vienna International Centre (VIC). The following IAEA web page can be accessed for more detailed information on Vienna and the VIC: http://www-pub.iaea.org/iaeameetings/GeneralInfo/Guide/VIC

H. Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

I. Organization

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary and correspondence on other matters related to the meeting to the Administrative Coordinator.