

Improving radiation protection and quality of healthcare in radiation medicine

1-3 October 2018



From 1 to 3 October 2018, participants from 22 countries and eight professional organizations discussed efforts to improve radiation safety culture in healthcare.

Representatives from radiology, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy shared their experience in strengthening safety culture in their own institutions and countries. Professionals included physicians, medical physicists, radiographers and members of the regulatory authorities.

Outcomes of the meeting, supported by the World Health Organization, included the best way forward in improving safety culture through training, webinars, incident learning systems and the use of the Radiation Protection of Patients website. Many opportunities for strengthening safety culture were identified such as:

- raising awareness,
- providing training material,
- imbedding safety culture into radiation protection practices.

The challenges identified varied and included:

- different national, organizational and facility cultures,
- the number medical professionals practicing in radiology, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy,
- the limited resources available.

The participants agreed that the cooperation with professional organizations, ministry of health, regulatory authority and patient advocacy groups can help support the success.