Improving the quality and safety of radiotherapy services in Europe

The challenge...
Radiotherapy departments vary from hospital to hospital, which may lead to suboptimal radiation treatment due to radiotherapy procedure deficiencies. The Quality Assurance Team for Radiation Oncology (QUATRO) was developed to counter possible radiotherapy procedure inconsistencies.

The project...
The principal aim of QUATRO is to review the radiotherapy process, including the organization, infrastructure and clinical and medical physics aspects of radiotherapy services. The team also reviews, through audits, a hospital's professional competence with a view to quality improvement. Three experts make up the audit team, a radiation oncologist, a medical physicist and a radiotherapy technologist, to focus on providing comprehensive audits of radiotherapy centres.

The impact...
• 18 QUATRO missions have been completed in the TC Europe region to date.
• Gaps in technology, human resources and procedures have been identified.
• Audited centres have documented areas for improvement and have received advice for further development.
• Some radiotherapy centres have been acknowledged for operating at a high level of competence.

A QUATRO radiation oncology expert discusses dose delivery calculations for the treatment of a cancer patient

A QUATRO medical physics expert explains the details of clinical radiation beam dosimetry

RER/6/013: Quality Assurance Team in Radiation Oncology (QUATRO): Improving the Quality of Radiotherapy Services