

REVIEW OF EXISTING ISSUES AND PRACTICES WITH RESPECT TO IRRADIATION OF PATIENTS AND STAFF DURING PREGNANCY

A. Schreiner

Ministry of Health, Radiation Protection Department, Villa Louvigny, Allée Marconi,
L-2120 Luxembourg

A literature review in relation to irradiation of patients and staff during pregnancy was carried out. A certain number of documents describing procedures to be followed in the case of a pregnant patient who needs to have a radiological examination and in the case of pregnant staff who work in a department where they could be exposed to radiation were found. A review of existing practices in 13 European countries was carried out, by sending a questionnaire to each country, concerning:

- The ten day rule
- Patients who are pregnant and need a radiological examination
- Staff and carers who are or may be pregnant and who are working in a radiology department
- Staff, patients and carers who are or may be pregnant and work in a Nuclear medicine department or need a nuclear medicine procedure.

From the review it was found that:

- The 10day rule is not applied in all the countries reviewed
- Special attention is given to optimisation and justification of the examination of a pregnant patient in radiology and nuclear medicine
- The existing practices in various European countries concerning staff and carers who are or may be pregnant and who are working in a radiology Department or a nuclear medicine department vary enormously. There is no harmonisation on this issue at a European level.

From the literature review and the review of practices in various European countries a number of existing ethical issues were identified and exposed and a number of conclusions were drawn. These will be presented during the SENTINEL workshop.

E-mail presenting author:

alexandra.schreiner@ms.etat.lu