

## OPTIMISATION STRATEGIES INTRODUCED FOR CR AT HEALTH CARE CENTRES IN ESTONIA

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In recent years starting from 2001 conventional film-screen radiography has been very rapidly replaced by digital (computed radiography) techniques in Estonia. Now most of the biggest health care centres can send and retrieve their diagnostic images (including radiography, but also angiography, CT, MRI, US, endoscopy etc) to and from the Estonian central PACS in Tartu University Hospital. Although the requirements for quality assurance have not been stated by the Estonian Regulations yet, a good international practice in radiology (image quality and dose management) has found its introduction in several hospitals already. It has been supported by the quality control provided by the Testing Centre of the University of Tartu. New strategies for optimisation and quality assurance for digital radiography have been introduced by the DIMOND III and SENTINEL partners recently. It includes consideration to diagnostic requirements of a given clinical situation, but also objectivation and standardisation of image quality, e.g. using CDRAD test phantom, and constancy testing. The aim of this work is to evaluate the performance of the CR systems (sensitivity depending on the exposure, image quality thumbprint of different organ programs) in different health care centres in order to optimally calibrate the AEC devices. Results from different reference centres are useful in developing guidelines by which images and post-processing can be standardised.

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