



Coordinated Action. European Research Project

## Media information

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### **EUROPE-WIDE PROJECT TO INVESTIGATE USE OF RADIATION IN HEALTHCARE LED BY NORTH EAST TEAM**

A Europe-wide project to investigate the safety and effectiveness of radiation use in healthcare equipment is being coordinated by a North East team.

The SENTINEL project will coordinate a programme of research across a consortium of partners from sixteen European Union member states, four candidate member states and the International Agency for Atomic Energy. The project has received a budget of 700,000 euros from the European Commission and is being conducted in partnership with Universities and Institutes from countries across Europe.

There is growing concern among healthcare professionals and patients about the use of radiation to produce scans, X-rays and other images of the human body.

Technological developments, led by equipment manufacturers from across Europe, have not been sufficiently supported by studies to ensure these new digital imaging devices and techniques are as effective as they might be or give the lowest possible radiation dose.

SENTINEL will look at the safety and effectiveness of the radiological imaging systems involved in almost 90% of examinations performed in Europe. These systems contribute to 60% of the total radiation dose from medical procedures and approximately half of the radiation the public is exposed to from man-made sources.

Commenting on the launch of the new project, Dr Keith Faulkner from the Quality Assurance Reference Centre, Wallsend said:

“Many types of equipment are used to assist with the diagnosis and treatment of health problems.

“We will be working with partners from across other European Union states to consider the safety of new equipment. This will include looking at issues around the levels of radiation dose given, whether all radiology examinations are necessary and whether mass population screening procedures are justified.”

**For media information or interviews contact Dr Keith Faulkner on 01912197014**