# Awareness of radiation risks by referrers and practitioners justifying radiological examinations [QSI Ref: XR-501]

**Descriptor:**

An audit to assess knowledge about radiation risk amongst personnel performing IR(ME)R practitioner functions.

**Background:**

In order to perform IR(ME)R justification appropriately as specified in the legislation and subsequent guidance, practitioners or personnel delegated to perform practitioner functions must be trained. Staff cannot perform assessment of relative risks without maintaining knowledge of radiation risks.

## The Cycle

**The standard:**

All IR(ME)R practitioners and those performing delegated practitioner functions should be able to demonstrate:

1) Knowledge of effective radiation doses resulting from four relevant radiological examinations

2) The approximate added risk of malignancy of these radiological procedures

**Target:**

100% of staff possess the requisite knowledge.

## Assess local practice

**Indicators:**

Proportion of staff who can correctly answer a questionnaire on the relevant radiation doses of four relevant radiological procedures and can give reasonable estimates of the increased relative risk of the associated radiation dose.

**Data items to be collected:**

Answers to questions on dose and risk.

**Suggested number:**

Typical number might be 15 staff acting as IR(ME)R practitioners.

**Suggestions for change if target not met:**

- Staff education as a continuous process

- Use of a dose/risk chart similar to table 2 in iRefer -  Justifying and Optimising Dose - will help with local education - this could be displayed as a poster or an online reminder depending on local practice

**Resources:**

- Questionnaire

- Excel or similar spreadsheet to tabulate responses and analyse statistics

- Five hours work

[**radiation\_awareness\_questionnaire.doc**](https://www.rcr.ac.uk/sites/default/files/audit_template/radiation_awareness_questionnaire.doc)WORD - 28.5 KB

**References:**

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**Editor's comments:**

- Sample questions could be tailored to the staff group being targeted, with a mix of radiological examination appropriate to the type of referral

- Can also be used to assess those being trained as IR(ME)R practitioners

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