Training Program in Radiation Protection: Implantation in a Radiation Oncology Department

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Abstract

Purpose: To introduce the radiation protection training program implemented in the radiation oncology department of the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec. This program seeks to provide an adequate training for all the clinic workers and to fulfill Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's (CNSC) legislations.

Materials & Methods: The radiation protection training program implemented is based on the use of five different education modalities:

1- Oral presentations, when the objective of the formation is to inform a large number of persons about general topics.
2- Periodic journals are published bimonthly and distributed to members of the department. They aim to answer frequently asked questions on the radiation safety domain. Each journal contains one main subject which is vulgarized and short notices, these later added to inform the readers about the departmental news and developments in radiation safety.
3- Electronic self-training presentations are divided into several units. Topics, durations, complexity and evaluations are adapted for different worker groups.
4- Posters are strategically displayed in the department in order to be read by all the radiation oncology employees, even those who are not specialized in the radiation protection area.
5- Simulations are organized for specialised workers to practice and to develop their skills in radiation protection situations as emergencies.

A registration method was developed to record all trainings performed by each member of the department.

Results: The training program implemented follows the CNSC recommendations. It allows about 150 members of the department to receive proper radiation safety training. The oral presentations allow an interaction between the trainer and the workers. The periodic journals are simple to write while ensuring continuous training. They are also easy to read and to understand. The e-learning units and their associated evaluations can be done at any time and everywhere in the department. The posters give permanent information and simulations are practical educational training.

Conclusions: A radiation protection training program approved by the CNSC was implemented in the radiation oncology department of the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec. Five training modalities are used to promote the radiation safety culture and continuously improve the knowledge of the staff.

KEYWORDS: Training Program; Radiation Oncology Department; Oral Presentation; Periodic Journal; E-learning; Poster.

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