



Service Priorities and Programmes
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General x-ray audit: To improve image quality by regular quality control meeting

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Introduction

There is a diverse standard of image quality among radiographers, varies from different academic background and working experience. Quality control meeting and image quality audit provide a platform to enhance imaging performance.

Objectives

(1) to monitor number of suboptimal general X-ray images; (2) to discuss and provide improvement in regular quality control meetings; (3) to investigate how quality control meetings affect the number of suboptimal images; (4) to maintain a high standard of imaging performance and obtain a higher efficiency in the radiology department.

Methodology

A total of 1000 random examinations in December 2013 and January 2014 were retrospectively evaluated under 9 image quality criteria in a blinded approach. Suboptimal images and suggested improvement were discussed during quality control meeting in late January 2014. 1000 random examinations in February and March 2014 were evaluated under same criteria. Number of suboptimal images was compared between pre- and post-quality control meeting. Moreover, feedbacks from radiographers was collected to demonstrate significance of this project.

Result

(1) Percentage of suboptimal images dropped from 19% to 4% after quality control meeting. (2) Image quality in overall performance shows satisfactory improvement. (3) Junior radiographers feel more confident in handling routine radiological procedures, especially with the support of quality control meeting. (4) A communication platform in the aspect of image quality is provided among radiologists and radiographers.