



ROYAL
COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS
OF IRELAND

National Radiology Quality Improvement (NRQI) Programmes

[Key Words and Phrases to Help You
Understand Report Findings](#)

National Specialty Quality Improvement Programmes

Key Words and Phrases

What is the National Radiology Quality Improvement (NRQI) Programme?

The NRQI Programme was launched by the Faculty of Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), in collaboration with the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) in 2009. Created in response to findings of reports into cancer misdiagnoses at the time, it remains at the centre of quality improvement in radiology in Ireland to this day.

What is radiology?

Radiology is an area of medicine which uses images to help diagnose and sometimes treat diseases.

Radiologist

A radiologist is a doctor, who has specialised their medical training in the area of radiology.

A radiologist can provide a diagnosis after reviewing images from any one of a number of different types of imaging such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), ultrasound (US), X-ray or mammograms.

Referral Sources

This tells us where the patient was referred from for a scan by their healthcare professional (this could be a doctor or in some cases an advanced nurse practitioner or physiotherapist). In this report four referral sources are reported on. These are inpatient, outpatient, emergency department and GP.

Inpatient

This is a patient who is referred to radiology department after they have been admitted to a hospital.

Outpatient

This is a patient referred to a radiology department without hospital admission at the time of their scan.

Emergency Department

In this report this relates to patients referred to a radiology department from an emergency department.

GP

In this report this refers to patients referred to a radiology department by their GP.

Key quality indicator (KQI)

This is the term given to a particular part of the radiology process for which we would like to measure the quality. It is used to make sure what is measured is the same each time and therefore allows the Programme to carry out comparisons over time.

Target

The NRQI Programme has created a specific value connected to each key quality indicator. These targets guide radiology departments towards best practice and care for the patient and are values that they should aim for or try to exceed.

Recommendation

Each year, the NRQI Programme reviews all the findings in the annual national data report and suggests the best course of action that should be taken by radiologists and / or the hospital management to make sure that targets are being met and patients are receiving the best care.