

UK Initiatives to Improve Patient Safety in Radiotherapy - the role of the HPA

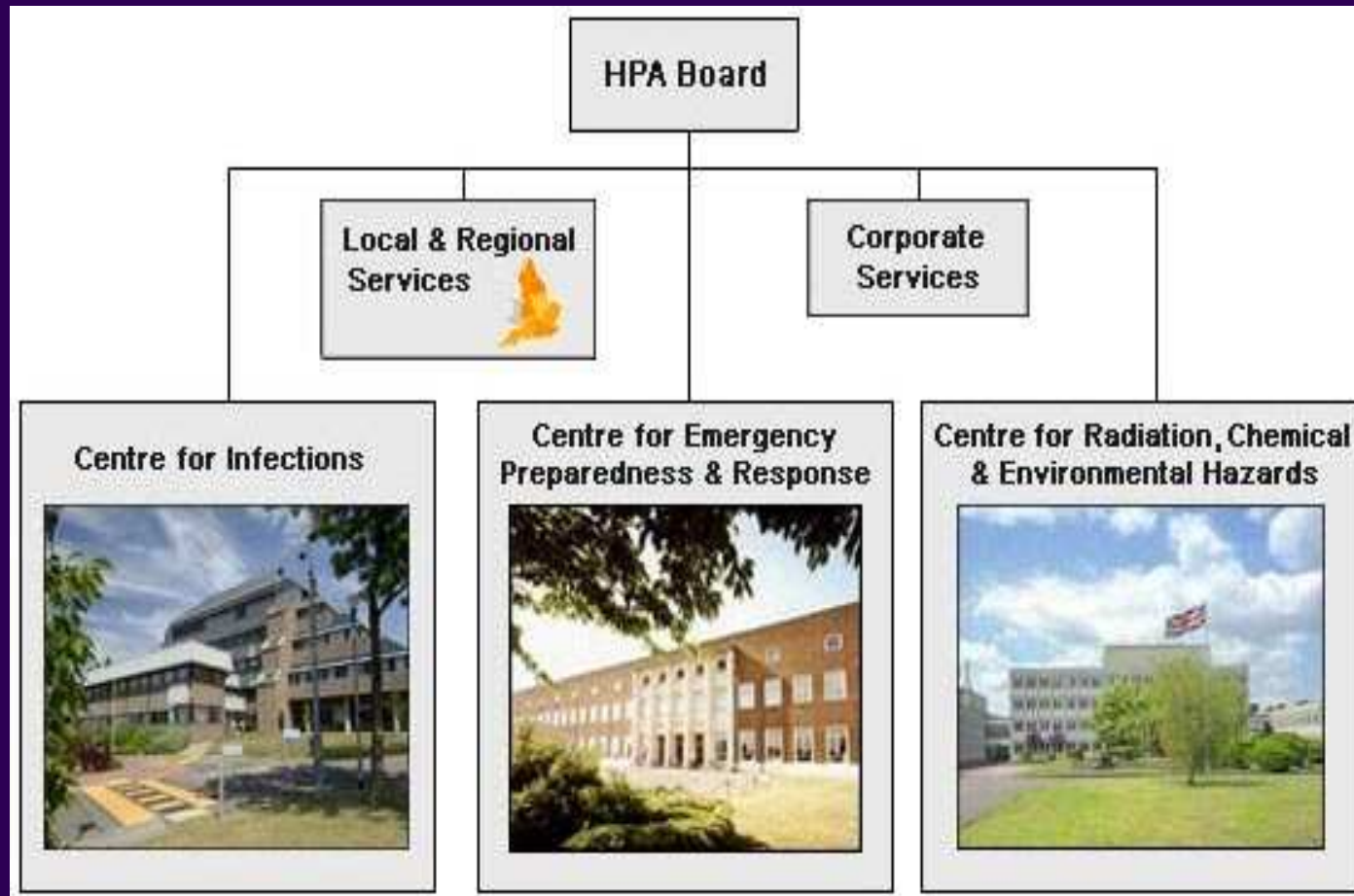


International Conference on Modern Radiotherapy:
Advances & Challenges in Radiation Protection of Patients

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Health Protection Agency (HPA)



Medical Exposures Department

- Role in Radiotherapy

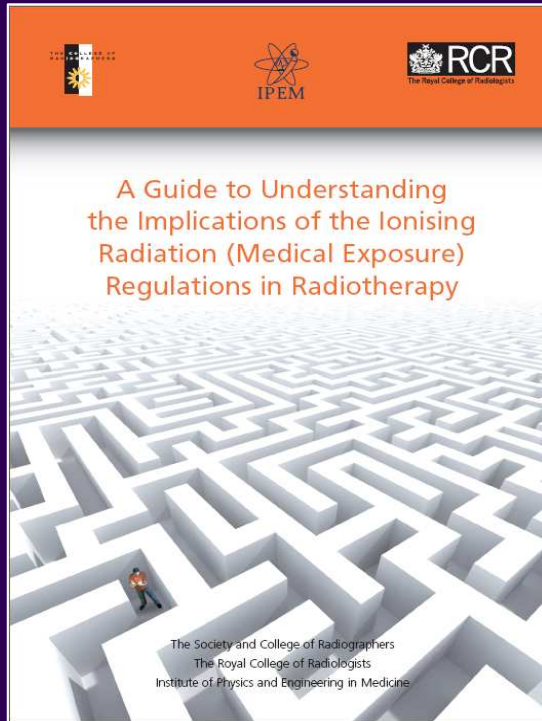


Independent resource for the radiotherapy community with the goal of improving patient safety and efficiency in radiotherapy departments within the context of legislation:

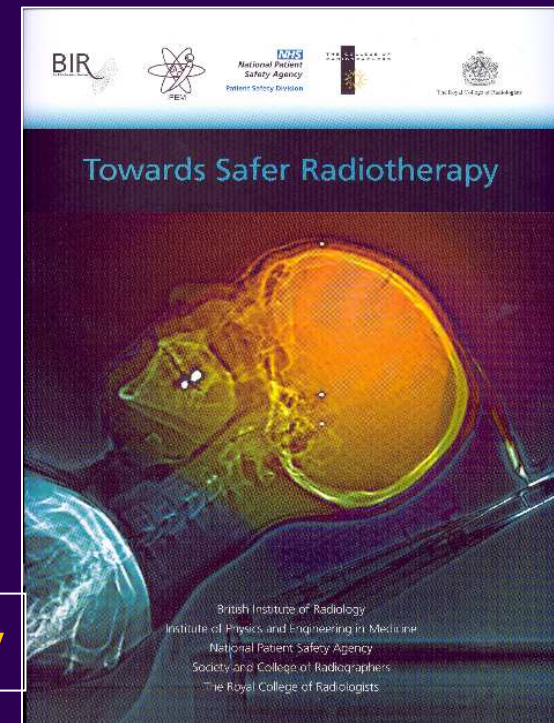
- analysis of radiotherapy incidents, whether near misses or reportable events and promulgation of experience across the community
- on site support to individual departments
- work with professional bodies to provide guidance on safe practice
- liaise with UK professional bodies & international organisations
- liaise with manufacturers & suppliers
- liaise with education providers
- liaise with researchers (technique development and dose implications)



Development of Guidelines in association with Professions



A Guide to Understanding the Implications of the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations in Radiotherapy



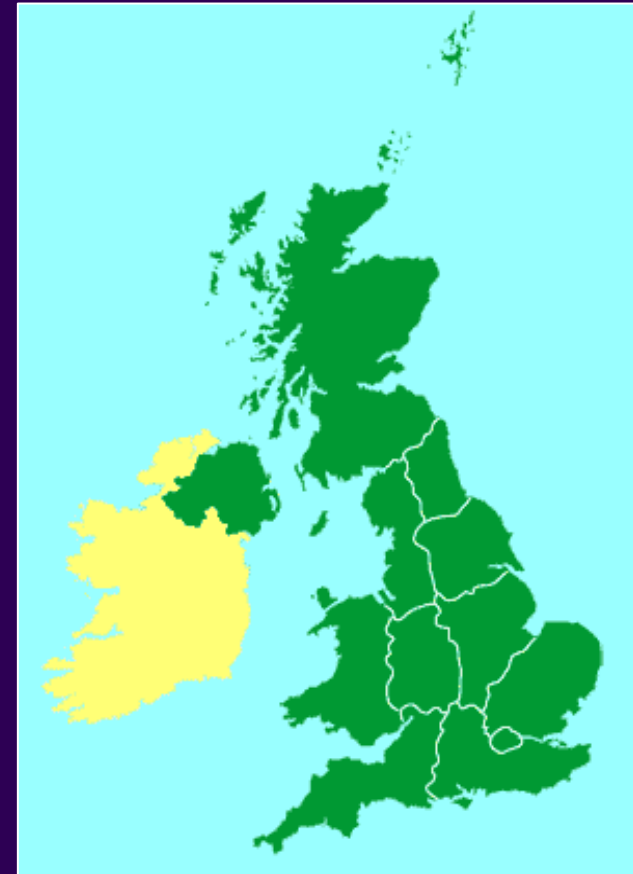
Towards Safer Radiotherapy

Site Visit

- UK Radiotherapy Departments



- Support individual departments in improving patient safety and process efficiency, but with in the context of IR(M)ER
- Provision of independent on-site advice across UK
- Positively influence local safety culture
- Direct interaction with doctors, physicists & radiographers

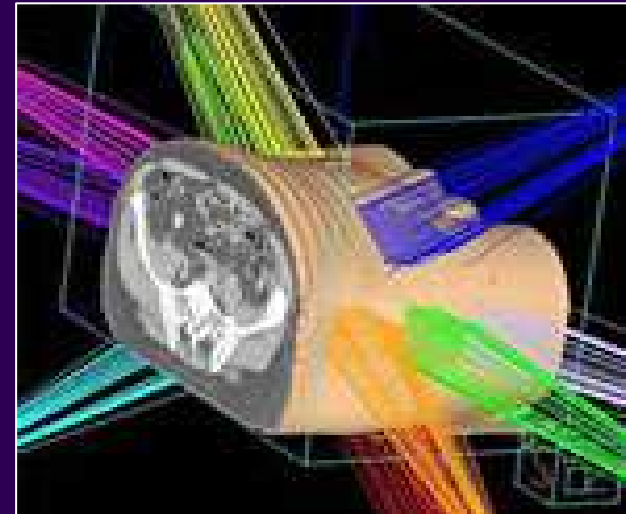


Site Visit

- Stakeholder Meetings



- Independent review (non-inspection)
- Translation of theory into practice
- Stripping of redundant processes
- Shared experience between clinical sites and of error analysis
- Achievable advice
- Support clinical departments in times of change



Site Visits

- Future development



- Cyclical process – repeat visits
- Flexibility for fast track visits
- Work to standardise practice nationally
- Further manufacturer engagement
- Establish mechanism to share areas of good practice & common themes in advice give



Learning from Radiotherapy Errors



Challenges

- Limited learning from reportable incidents due to small number of reports
- Limited by inconsistent use of terminology

Solutions

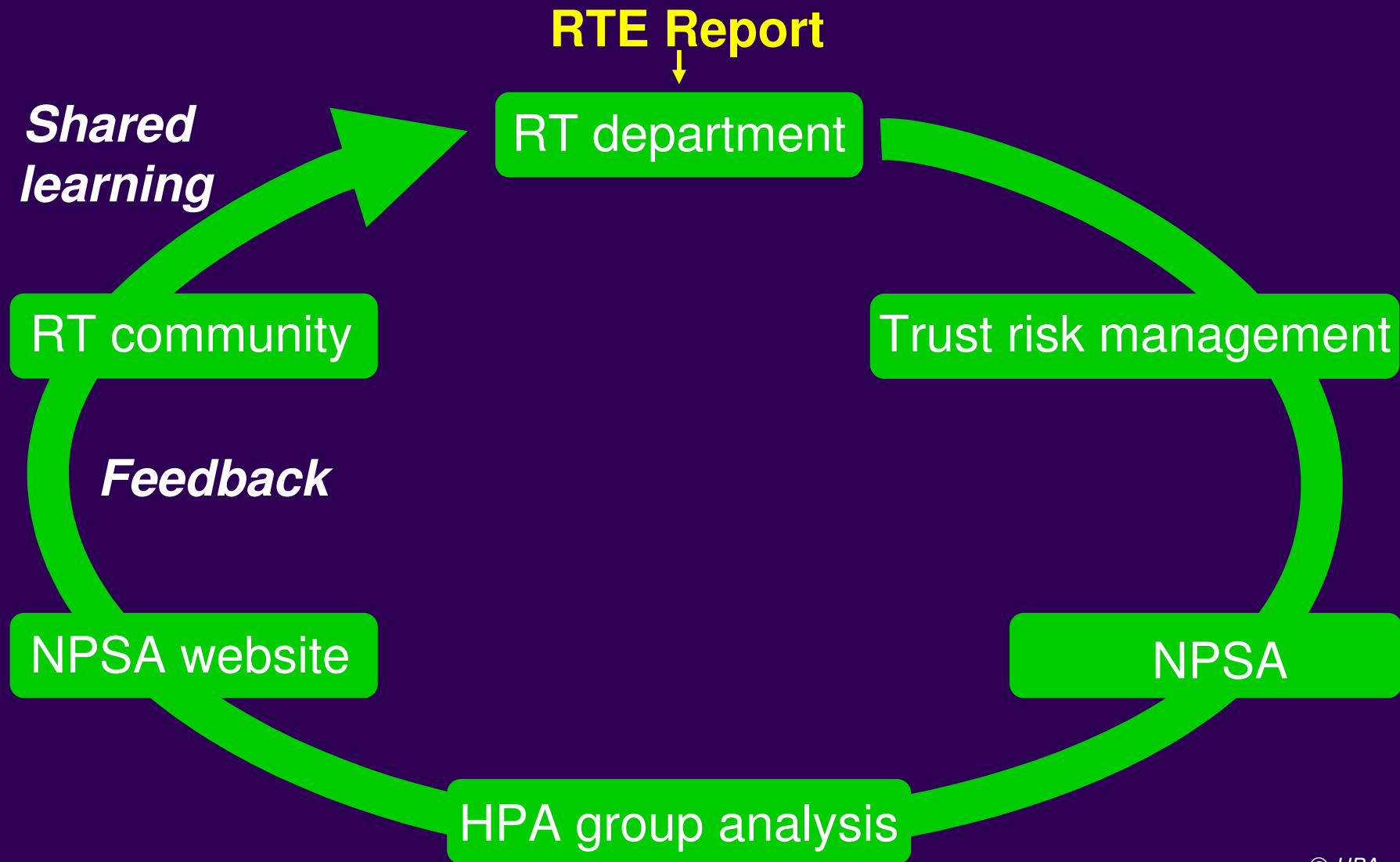
- National Patient Safety Agency host voluntary reporting system for patient safety incidents (including near misses).
- HPA expertise employed to undertake analysis of radiotherapy errors.



Heinrich's Accident Triangle

Learning from Radiotherapy Errors

- National Voluntary Reporting

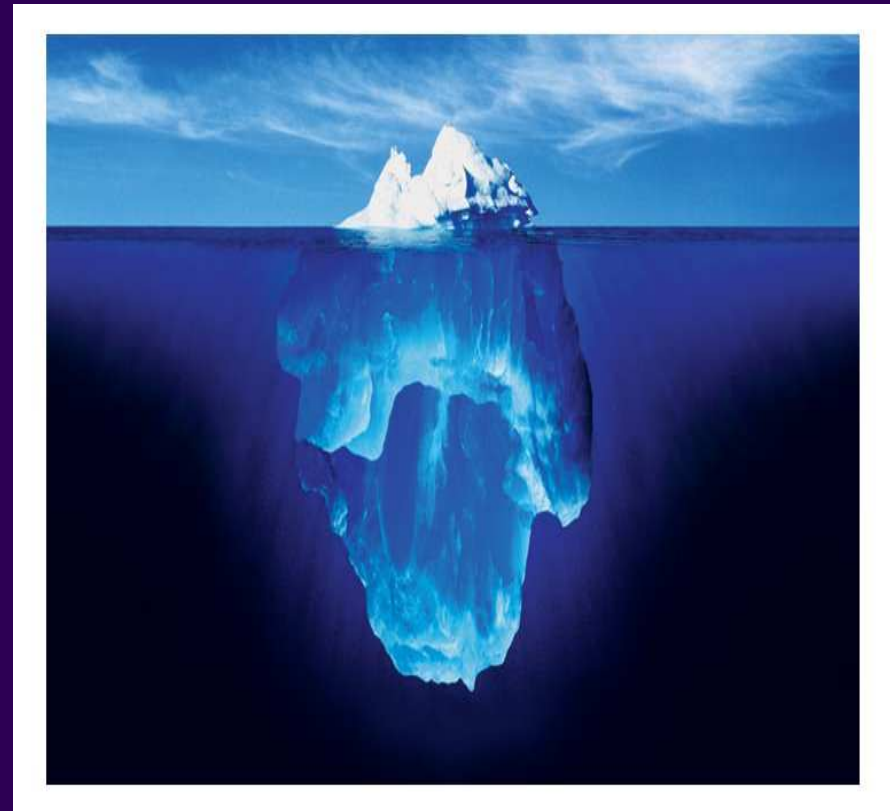


Learning from Radiotherapy Errors

- Future Work



- Regular review, analysis & feedback of radiotherapy error data
- Develop taxonomy for causative factors & error detection
- Contribute to international reporting and learning
- Continue to work with professions to improve patient safety



Questions



Thank you for your
attention

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