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## **INVITING INPUT TO IMPROVE PATIENT SAFETY IN RADIOTHERAPY**

*IAEA Launches Safety in Radiation Oncology (SAFRON) A Tool for Patient Safety in Radiotherapy*

Radiotherapy is a complex technology that requires the skills and abilities of highly trained professionals working with very sophisticated technology to provide radiation to specific locations within the patient for the treatment of cancer. In this activity there are opportunities for incidents to occur and those incidents can have significant impact on the patient

By identifying how these incidents or near misses happen, centres can identify processes or barriers that can eliminate or reduce the potential for mistakes, making radiotherapy safer.

By pooling information on the incidents, causality and corrective actions; radiotherapy facilities can develop a safety system that can prevent or reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring at their facility. For example, the treatment setup for a patient must be precise if the patient is to be treated in the correct area and given the correct dose.

“Safety in the medical use of radiation, is a key element of nuclear and radiation safety overall,” said Pil-Soo Hahn, Director of the Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety.

To improve patient safety in radiotherapy the IAEA has established SAFRON, a web based user system for improving the safety and quality of patient care in radiation therapy by sharing knowledge about incidents and near incidents.

Find us at: <http://rpop.iaea.org/SAFRON> or visit the Radiation Protection of Patient website and look for the SAFRON icon at <http://rpop.iaea.org>

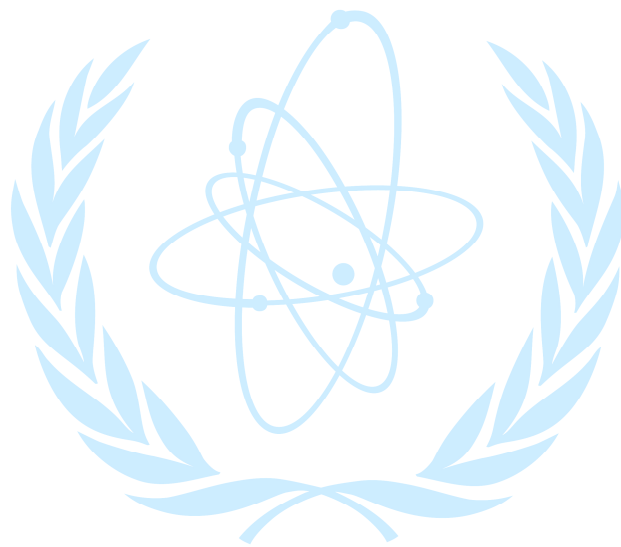
SAFRON allows radiotherapy centres to contribute incidents and near misses to an international learning system, allowing the participating centres to share and receive information on patient safety issues

SAFRON will collect information on treatment setup errors - what caused the error and what has been done to reduce the likelihood of repeating it. By reviewing this information, centres can learn from these mistakes such as requiring a second independent check of patient set up prior to treatment.

SAFRON is designed to be both a facility-based and an international incident reporting system. Contributing institutions submitting information can review their own incidents and incidents that have been submitted by other participating centres.

However, the identity of each contributor remains anonymous to the reviewer. Not disclosing the identity of a contributing facility protects it from punitive action and provides a means to encourage participation and to learn and let others learn from such reports.

SAFRON is the newest among many tools the IAEA provides to the radiotherapy community in support of the safe and beneficial uses of radiation.



**IAEA**

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