

Does Your Radiation Safety Program Address Issues Raised in the Joint Commission Sentinel Event Alert #47?

Our experienced medical physicists can help.

The **Joint Commission Sentinel Event Alert #47 – Radiation Risks of Diagnostic Imaging** outlines risks associated with diagnostic radiation, and steps to reduce the chance of radiation-related Sentinel Events. Since the Joint Commission publishes Sentinel Event Alerts relatively infrequently (about 2 per year), they represent specific areas of their attention. Suggested steps in this Sentinel Event Alert exceed most state regulations, which have not been updated in a decade or more.

LANDAUER now offers an **Independent Radiation Safety Program Audit** - an expert, third-party audit, specifically designed to help you address issues raised in the Sentinel Event Alert, as well as the rapidly evolving technology, safety and regulatory needs in medical imaging.



1. A half-day, on-site audit, conducted by an experienced LANDAUER medical physicist

- Audit consists of a series of interviews with key members of the medical imaging and radiation safety teams
- Audit is designed to assess how your institution has addressed patient safety issues raised in the Sentinel Event Alert, and identify potential gaps in your radiation safety program

2. Topics covered during the audit include:

- **Right Scan** - ACR Appropriateness Criteria
- **Right Dose** - ALARA guidelines
- **Effective Processes** - Radiation safety policies and procedures
- **Safe Technology** - Regular equipment inspection, QA, preventative maintenance and upgrades
- **Safety Culture and Additional Best Practices**

Radiation Safety Gap Analysis		
Issue	COMPLETE	IN PROGRESS
Compliance with the Joint Commission ISSUE 47, AUGUST 24, 2011		
Physicists to dialogue with referring physicians using the ACR's Appropriateness Criteria. Are the Appropriateness Criteria being followed on a prospective or spot check?		
ALARA guidelines when providing imaging. Have you implemented...		

Radiation Safety Gap Analysis	
Issue	COMPLETE
Compliance with the Joint Commission ALERT ISSUE 47, AUGUST 24, 2011	
Who are those responsible for approving changes to password protocols and for monitoring new developments in default protocols, requiring authorization to change?	
Physical protective risk reduction measures to be followed. What is the shielding policy? How are these policies being followed?	
R10. Recommend imaging protocols (CR, DR, CT, changes. Authorization of department manager	
R11. Recommendations (Gonadal shields)	
R12. Recommendations (collimation)	

3. After the audit, LANDAUER will deliver:

- **Comprehensive report documenting progress and opportunities** for incorporating issues raised in the Sentinel Event Alert into your radiation safety program
- **Customized action plan**, with specific recommendations and suggested prioritization, to address opportunities identified during the audit

Having a completed Sentinel Event Alert Audit and an action plan in place is an ideal way to demonstrate that your facility has taken this issue seriously, and has embarked on a program to address these important patient safety issues.

Contact LANDAUER to learn more about how we can help you address key radiation safety program opportunities. **866-537-2234** mlevandoski@landauersales.com

Our Physics Leadership



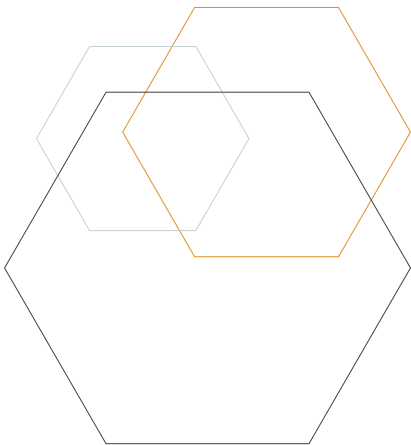
Bob Pizzutiello, MS, FACR, FAAPM, FACMP
Senior Vice President, Imaging Services
Global Physics Solution – a LANDAUER company

Bob Pizzutiello has over 30 years of experience as a medical physicist. Bob began practicing medical physics in the Cancer Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center in 1977. In 1979, he became Director of Medical Physics at Rochester General Hospital, where his areas of interest and expertise broadened to include diagnostic imaging physics and teaching medical physics to physicians.

Bob has always believed in the value of being on the leading edge of professional and clinical developments. In 1987, he helped to pilot test the new “ACR Mammography Accreditation Phantom” at several client facilities. In the early 1990’s he became a medical physicist reviewer for phantom images for the ACR-MAP. After more than a decade of work with the ACR and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), Bob was appointed to the FDA’s Mammography Quality Standards Advisory Committee. When Stereotactic Breast Biopsy was introduced in the early 1990’s, Bob worked with the American College of Radiology (ACR) to develop the ACR Stereotactic Breast Biopsy Accreditation program and co-authored the SBB QC manual. Bob continues to serve on several key committees of the AAPM, ACR and ACMP.

Bob is an active lecturer, and has been invited to speak at over 100 programs in the last decade across the U.S., in South America and in China. Bob has also served as consultant to many major imaging manufacturers, contributing his knowledge of imaging and broad practical experience to the manufacturing sector. His current special interests include breast imaging, MRI, and cone-beam CT imaging.

In 1983, Bob formed a medical physics practice group, which became the largest private practice imaging physics group in New York State. The group joined GPS in 2010 and Bob assumed and currently occupies a senior role on the GPS clinical leadership team.



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