

Purpose: To investigate and develop an appropriate framework for establishing and monitoring staff competency for IGRT procedures in the community setting. To evaluate existing resources to establish and monitor staff competency.

Method and Materials: The full benefit of IGRT can only be realized through the proper deployment of appropriate technology coupled with staff expertise in technical and clinical aspects of IGRT. All of the three main technical processes comprising the treatment chain in IGRT: CT simulation, treatment planning and delivery are greatly increased in complexity compared to 3D CRT. This necessitates the acquisition and monitoring of additional competencies among staff in their technical and clinical skill sets. Management is faced with the challenges of 1. providing competency training for staff and monitoring performance, 2. developing and implementing appropriate policies, procedures and oversight, to ensure the accuracy of IGRT treatments. Anecdotal evidence suggests an accelerating pace of IGRT technology diffusion among community radiation therapy centers. However, there seem to be inadequate formal resources for staff training and competency certification in IGRT procedures, which can hinder the optimal use of the technology in the community setting. In this work, existing frameworks for staff and quality management are examined along with a review of available resources. Experiences of a medium sized community hospital in implementing IGRT are discussed.

Results:

Conclusion:

Conflict of Interest (only if applicable):