

Rapid changes in health care management have resulted in consolidation of services into integrated delivery systems to provide services to the multi-hospital facilities and ambulatory care centers. The cost effective measures have impacted on the medical physics staffing needs to provide the necessary support services. In order to calculate the full time equivalent (FTE) positions required to provide medical physics and radiation safety services to BHS integrated delivery system, a study of number of work hours needed for each task in Diagnostic Radiology, Radiation Oncology and Radiation Safety Programs (IR/NIR) was undertaken in collaboration with management engineering. A standardized data format to account for each activity in minutes for each task was used to collect the data for one full year (1996). The major fixed tasks were related to responsibilities of radiation safety programs mandated by licenses and Certification/Accreditation programs. The major variable tasks included radiation unit e.g. X-ray tubes, Gamma Cameras, etc., Q/C in Diagnostic Radiology and T/P in Radiation Oncology. The analysis resulted in worked hours per UOS (Unit of Service) for the variable tasks. The annual hours for fixed tasks were corrected by appropriate vacation factor to obtain the worked hours. A simple formula was used to calculate the FTE's using these two components of worked hours. Such an approach has helped us to justify the present staff in Medical Physics Department and also to flex the staffing pattern to respond to the changes in volume e.g. # of radiation units, # of patients, etc.