

AbstractID: 9765 Title: Preliminary Results of the Nationwide Evaluation of X-ray Trends (NEXT) 2002 Survey of A/P Abdomen and Lumbo-Sacral (LS) Spine Radiography

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) collaborates with the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) in a unique federal-state partnership to characterize the radiation doses patients receive and to document the state of the practice of diagnostic radiology. Each year the Nationwide Evaluation of X-ray Trends (NEXT) survey program selects a particular radiological examination for study and captures radiation exposure data from a nationally representative sample of U.S. clinical facilities. In 2002 a survey of facilities that perform A/P Abdomen and Lumbo-Sacral (LS) Spine Radiography was conducted, capturing data on patient exposure, clinical technique factors, radiographic image quality, darkroom integrity, and the quality of film processing. An important survey design consideration was whether significant differences would be observed between the new digital-based imaging technologies and the established screen-film practice. As such, the 2002 survey included a significant number of responses from facilities using digital-based technologies. This paper will present preliminary results of this survey, compare and contrast the screen-film and digital-based technologies, and compare these results with those of previous NEXT Abdomen and LS Spine surveys.