

A patient safety program is critical to proper medical management in interventional radiology or cardiology departments. While radiation is only one part of the overall patient safety picture, it is a vital, and often overlooked, aspect of any safety program. One of the main goals of a radiation safety program is to prevent deterministic radiation effects if possible, and identify effects when they occur so appropriate medical treatment can be administered. The development of such a program requires that the physicist understands possible deterministic effects, quantities used to assess the radiation dose to a patient, and current practice guidelines and regulations that address radiation dose in an interventional radiology setting. The learning objectives of this session are:

1. Understand the quantities and methods that can be used to estimate peak skin dose;
2. Understand possible deterministic effects that can result from interventional radiology procedures;
3. Understand current practice guidelines and regulations governing patient safety in interventional radiology;
4. Learn how to set up a patient safety program, including pre-procedure, intra-procedure, and post-procedure phases.