Standards are essential to providing practitioners with a uniform set of tools to use to deliver healthcare to the public. Imagine the limitations imposed in previous generations when radiation dose was “measured” by the “Skin Erythema Dose.” The development and widespread use of the concept of absorbed dose to organs created a new paradigm that opened the door to the modern era of Radiation Medicine.

The current absence of uniform standards for dose display limits our ability to use dosimetry information effectively in the clinical decision support process. The development of Standards has historically evolved from Educational, through Voluntary and ultimately to Regulatory implementation. Our experience with Mammography since the late 1980’s provides helpful context. When MQSA was enacted, only 25% of the mammography facilities in the USA were accredited.

Today’s Regulatory Standards in the USA start with the familiar FDA Product Standards, and are now supplemented and strengthened by emerging Professional and Reimbursement Standards.

How can AAPM, COMP and other members of the Radiation Medicine community help to create Dose Display standards that are meaningful, practical, and most importantly support the clinical decision making process?