

Approximate patient radiation doses

Licence holders should be aware of the approximate patient radiation doses. Reference dose levels should be introduced for applications in diagnostic x-ray examinations as performed in their facilities.

Diagnostic reference levels (DRL) refer to dose levels in medical diagnostic practices for typical x-ray examinations for groups of standard size patients or standard phantoms for broadly defined types of equipment.

These levels are expected not be exceeded for standard procedures when good and normal practice regarding diagnostic and technical performance is applied.

The objective of a diagnostic reference level is to help avoid radiation dose to the patient that does not contribute to the clinical purpose of a medical imaging task.

Publication 60 of the International Commission on Radiological Protection: diagnostic reference level is not applied to individual patients. Diagnostic reference levels have no direct linkage to the numerical values for dose limits or dose constraints, and it is inappropriate to use them for regulatory or commercial purposes. Diagnostic reference levels should be selected by professional medical bodies (often in conjunction with health and radiation protection authorities) and their values may be specific to a country or region.