

Q&A Session

How Does Your CT Dose Measure Up?

Learn About the ACR Dose Index Registry

September 27, 2011

Q: How is data sent to DIR?

A: Data is sent to the DIR via https from ACR TRIAD software that is installed at the facility.

Q: What is the fee per radiologist?

A: There is not really a fee per radiologist; we use number of radiologist as a proxy measure of facility size and the **fee schedule** is scaled for facility size.

Q: Do you have a recent update on the ACR CTDI_{vol} for head, abdomen, pediatric body?

A: We have some preliminary values on average CTDI_{vol} and DLP in our **sample report**.

We do not have a pediatric report yet and we expect to release the first pediatric report in early 2012.

Reference levels from the ACR Accreditation Program are included below:

ACR CT Accreditation Dose Pass/Fail Criteria and Reference Levels

Examination	Pass/Fail Criteria	Reference Levels
	CTDI _{vol} (mGy)	CTDI _{vol} (mGy)
Adult Head	80	75
Adult Abdomen	30	25
Pediatric Abdomen (5 year old)	25	20

Q: Is there any data on age of patient for each examination or is it simply the name of the exam?

A: We do collect patient age and create separate reports for adults and children. We also have plans to incorporate patient size in the future.

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Q: Any idea if radiation monitoring will be mandatory in the near future?

A: Currently, radiation dose monitoring is entirely voluntary. We are not aware of any efforts to make it mandatory yet. That said, the recent approval by NQF of a measure for participation in a national dose index registry may be a step in that direction.

Q: How do you get the dose to the registry; do we provide the data or do you have any measuring device to monitor?

A: We collect the dose indices reported by your scanner for all exams on all patients. The data are collected through the DICOM structured report or the Dose Report generated by the scanner for the exam. There is no additional device required for measuring the dose.

We will install a piece of software called TRIAD at your location that will interface between your facility and the registry. Once TRIAD is installed, you can point your scanners or PACS to TRIAD, which will anonymize patient data and transmit it to the registry.

Q: What is your web address for information on DIR?

A: nrdr.acr.org

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Q: Do you monitor the dose rate data so as to alert a facility of high or abnormal doses?

A: No, not at this point. The Dose Index Registry reports on averages across exam types as opposed to individual exams. You will be able see abnormally high dose indices at your facility using our graphing tools, but this will be after the fact.

Our plans included real-time alerts, but with the changes in the industry and with vendors implementing dose alert functionality on their scanners, our immediate goal is to support these efforts that are underway by developing benchmarks and measures to help facilities and scanner manufacturers set alert levels and notification levels so they are alerted to high doses before the patient is scanned. We may still implement real-time alerts, but that is not a priority for the short term.

Q: Do you offer a discount to military hospitals or have an agreement with the Department of Defense?

A: Not at this point. But if a large number of facilities under the Department of Defense want to sign up as a single entity, they can, and that will result in a discounted price relative to what the facilities would have paid if they were to sign up as single independent facilities.

Q: Does participation in one or more of the registries result in the participating radiologists being compliant with the PQI component of MOC with the ABR?

A: Yes, the CTC, NMD and ICE registries are approved as PQI projects for MOC with the ABR. We have applied for approval for DIR and should be hearing back shortly.

Q: Different manufacturers report pediatric dose CTDI-vol based on different phantoms (16 cm or 32 cm diameter), so size correction will be different. Do you account for that vagary?

A: Yes, phantom size is one of the fields in the DICOM SR.

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Q: Is there a list of fields that is needed by DIR?

A: Yes, we can send you the list of fields we collect if you email us at nrdrr@acr.org.

Q: Can we customize any reports?

A: You can extract the data to Excel to produce your own reports. In addition, you can submit a request for a customized report and we will try to accommodate your request.

Also, you have access to your data at any time and can generate custom reports. Each benchmark report is specific to your facility and compares your data to that of other facilities like yours.

Q: Do I get a credit hour towards CME?

A: Not at this point; sorry.