



Organisation of medical physics in European countries

- Survey from January 2012-

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Rationale

France has a specific regulation regarding medical physics which asks for a description of the organisation of medical physics within an hospital (for all departments in relation with ionising radiations : radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, radiology...), called “plan d’organisation de la physique médicale” (POPM).

A joint working group between ASN and the French society of medical physics is currently preparing a guide to help in the writing of POPM.

A question was raised on the “hierarchical” dependence of medical physicists.



The questions

We are currently trying to get information on the organisation of medical physics in European countries.

By organisation, I mean that the information we would like to get is to know if in your country medical physicists are organized in :

1. independent departments of medical physics (with a similar level as medical departments)
2. all medical physicists are under the responsibility/authority of a medical department
3. both situations exist in your countries

Additional question : is one of the above mentioned organisations mandatory regarding the regulation in your country?

Sent to HERCA WG MA + ERPAN members in January 2012



19 answers

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Island
- Luxembourg
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- UK





The answers

Countries with an independant department of medical physics (directly connected to the hospital management)

(4) : Spain, Irland, UK, Poland (only for radiotherapy)

Countries with various organisations

(11) : France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Finland, Greece, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Island, Hungary

Countries in which the majority of the medical physicists are under the authority of a medical department

(4) : Germany, Austria, Roumania, Bulgaria



The answers

In several countries which did not define the obligation of having independent medical physics departments, it appears however that :

- ✓ independent departments of MP exist in the largest hospitals (Sweden, Greece, Slovenia), or
- ✓ the national scientific body of MP wishes the independence (Bulgaria, France), or
- ✓ the national control authority wishes that this organisation becomes mandatory even if it is outside its province (Roumania).