Re-Audit of Indications for Plain Abdominal films from the Emergency Department in Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Gateshead

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Background:
• Abdominal x-rays overuse is commoner now than before especially in emergency which is both a source of radiation exposure and a financial burden to the Trust.
• The average AXR exposes a patient to the radiation dose equivalent to 50 chest x-rays.

Aim:
To assess the compliance of the emergency department at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead to the iRefer Guidelines.

Methodology:
• Retrospective study of (n=26) from 1st to 14th of January, 2018. (re-audit)
• First audit: (n=52) taken over the period of May,2017.
• The requests were looked into to assess adherence to iRefer Guidelines.

Standard:
100% of requests should adhere to iRefer guidelines.

First Audit Results:
88% of the requests were adherent to the iRefer guidelines.

Plan of Action:
• Results were presented in a meeting to educate the staff.
• A poster with the iRefer guidelines from the RCR was displayed in Emergency department.

Conclusion:
Abdominal plain films are the first line imaging in the workup of patients with acute abdominal. Adherence to guidelines have improved from 88% to 100% after intervention.

Re-Audit Results:
100% of requests were adherent to guidelines. Requests for renal stones visualisation has been excluded.

Second Plan of Action:
• To re-distribute the poster in Emergency Department to educate junior doctors.
• To re-audit in 1 year.