MEDICAL PHYSICS PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND THEIR IMPACT ON CLINICAL PRACTICE

2018 AAPM Annual Meeting
Professional Track SAM session
Tue 7:30-9:30 AM, Rm 209

MEDICAL PHYSICS PRACTICE GUIDELINES: AN INTRODUCTION

Per Halvorsen

Macro environment

- Lack of clarity re. minimum standards vs best practice – inappropriate adoption of TG reports “in whole”
- No consistent requirement for medical physics support in accreditation programs
- Different practice environments – need to define a common “baseline”
TG reports:

- Intended to be a technical reference for medical physicists, not intended for regulations
- Compendia of the known science, not consensus practice guidelines
- Not updated regularly

Accreditation programs:

- Required for non-hospital advanced imaging services through MIPPA; encouraged for all clinics by ACR, ASTRO, AAPM (PP-27)
- No consistent medical physics requirements

MPPG initiative

- Developed by AAPM Professional Council, presented to Board in 2011
- Intended to define the minimum level of medical physics support deemed appropriate to support a given clinical service
- Rigorous review and consensus-seeking development method; 5-year renewal cycle
MPPG history

- Concept and proposal developed by AAPM Professional Council 2009-2010
- Board motion approved in 2011
- SC on Practice Guidelines formed in 2012
- First Guideline published in 2013
- First 5-year MPPG revision due in 2018

MPPG vision

- AAPM takes lead on developing guidelines for medical physics
- Peer-reviewed, open-access
- Accrediting programs, regulators and legislators will be encouraged to reference MPPGs when defining their respective requirements

MPPG scope

- Describe minimum level of medical physics support in any practice setting for specific clinical services
- “Support” includes staffing, equipment, machine access, training, and SOPs
- Not intended to replace Task Group reports
Key priorities

- Appropriate deference to each clinic’s QMP and Medical Director
- Describe minimum levels of professional supervision
- Set a clear expectation of institutional commitment/support for appropriate resources
- Scope of medical physicist’s role
- Minimum routine QA (equipment & process QA)

Publication of MPPGs

- JACMP – open access – special section for AAPM Reports
- Also posted on AAPM website at: www.aapm.org/pubs/MPPG

Progress

- 5-year program review completed
- 8 published (1 as a collaborative document with AAPM in lead), 3 in progress, 1 in renewal phase
- MPPGs have begun to be adopted as reference material in ACR Practice Parameters / Technical Standards and accreditation programs including The Joint Commission