The Medical Physics Status in Portugal

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RADIOTHERAPY (2011)

North

3 Public Hospitals + 3 Private
16 Linacs
15 Physicists

3.5 millions

Center

2 Public Hospitals
5 Linacs
10 Physicists

2 millions

South and Madeira

3 Public Hospitals + 11 Private
21 Linacs
36 Physicists

4.5 millions

42 RT units / 61 Physicists

Source: Coordination for the Oncology Diseases of the Heath Ministry

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RADIOTHERAPY – Last decade evolution

RADIOTHERAPY (2011)

MP outsoursing seems to be the national option

RADIOTHERAPY: Some evolution points (2001-2011)

- Changings in the financial management model for public hospitals
- Appearance and increase of the number of private centres
- Powerful economic groups own private RT clinics
- Appearance of private companies offering MP outsourcing services
- National planning does not exist despite a "Strategic development for RT for the next decade" issued in December 2008
- The needs in MP education and training and professional development are not faced as urgent by the national authorities

But in terms of installed technology:

- Modern equipment – new generation linacs with on-board imaging devices; GamaKnife unit; PET-CT; Tomotherapy (very soon)
- New techniques: IGRT, IMRT, Radiosurgery

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NUCLEAR MEDICINE AND RADIOLOGY FACILITIES

Official statistics of the licensed facilities (In 2009 only 20% of the private medical X-rays facilities were licensed)

- 8 medical physicists have contracts in public hospitals and are full time dedicated to NM or RL;
- 6 outsoursing companies are active in NM and/or RL
- In a rough estimation around 20 physicists work in NM or RL

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: Some evolution points (2001-2011)

- Education and training is carried out on an individual base (international courses, conferences, etc.)
- Very focused training on specific techniques is strongly supported by equipment companies/partners

- The approved legal program for on-job training (2 years) is having a weak application - just 14 new trainees from 2002 to 2009 and now it is completely blocked
- The competencies in education and training in the traditional reference centres are becoming weaker. No recognition, not valuable
- There is no career grades. Remunerations are low
- There is no professional registration, no CPD program and no professional ethics code
- Despite the efforts and proposals of DFM_SPF to structure a national qualification framework in Medical Physics, in accordance with European recommendations, the ongoing legislative documents do not point towards this direction

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