

Radiation Health & Safety Advisory Council

an advisory body to the CEO of ARPANSA, established under the ARPANS Act 1998
Secretariat: ARPANSA, Standards Development & Committee Support Section,
Lower Plenty Road, Yallambie, Victoria, 3085
Tel: 03 9433 2211 Fax: 03 9433 2353
Email: arpansa.secretariat@health.gov.au

COUNCIL ADVICE ON THE USE OF RADIATION IN PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE

AUGUST 2002

At its August 2002 meeting, Council discussed the use of radiation in preventative medicine. In particular, the issues of unreferral whole body CT scans and CT cardiac calcium scoring as screening tests were considered.

Council noted the position of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists concerning whole body CT scans, that:

to date there is no evidence that total body CT screening is cost effective or is effective in prolonging life.

Council also noted the view of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand on CT calcium scoring, that:

there is insufficient evidence to justify the routine use of coronary CT scanning for asymptomatic subjects other than for research purposes. At the present time there is no indication that there is any value in repeat testing.

Council endorsed these positions and emphasised that the principle of justification of the use of radiation needs to be applied. Council believes that there is no scientific evidence to support such use of the procedures at this time, and it is therefore premature to undertake such studies. However Council encourages further research in these areas to determine the usefulness of the techniques, but believes that they are not appropriate for mass screening until such evidence is available, as the radiation dose involved is not insignificant.