



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Radiation Protection  
and Nuclear Safety Agency**



# NDRLS

**National Diagnostic  
Reference Level Service**

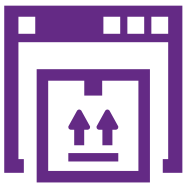
**2017 newsletter**

# Welcome

Welcome to ARPANSA's *National Diagnostic Reference Level Service 2017 newsletter*. This edition includes a summary of this year's DRL developments and information about the end of year multi detector computed tomography shut down.

---

## Multi detector computed tomography (MDCT)



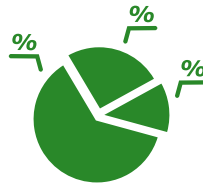
### Submission of surveys

Last year, our MDCT survey participants submitted over 1500 surveys – a new record! We are on track to set a new record this year too, with 280 more surveys submitted so far this year than at the same point last year.

We would like to thank everyone who has participated, especially the 180 facilities that have registered with the MDCT NDRLS for the first time. The more facilities that register and submit surveys, the better and more representative the data will be.

### This time for sure!

After a slight (12 month) delay, the MDCT liaison panel has finally taken shape. New MDCT DRLs for adults are likely to be formulated in 2018 - probably using data submitted during 2017. It is therefore extra important that the 2017 data set truly reflects common practice within Australia. Get your [\*surveys in now\*](#).



### Data collection close off for 2017

Any MDCT surveys that have been started have until **Wednesday 3 January 2018** to be completed. Open surveys with less than 10 patients will be locked and no FRL report will be generated. Surveys with 10 or more patients will be closed and an FRL report will be generated as per usual.

ARPANSA will be closed from Friday 22 December 2017 to Tuesday 2 January 2018, during which time the NDRLS hotline and email service will be unattended and we will not be able to reset your passwords.



## Nuclear medicine



### New diagnostic reference levels

Nuclear medicine DRLs were introduced for adult patients this July. The DRLs cover general nuclear medicine, PET and the CT component of SPECT/CT and PET/CT scans. Unlike for MDCT, ARPANSA is not running a continuing survey for nuclear medicine providers. However, you can find the [\*\*DRLs and information on how to compare your doses to the DRLs\*\*](#) on our website.

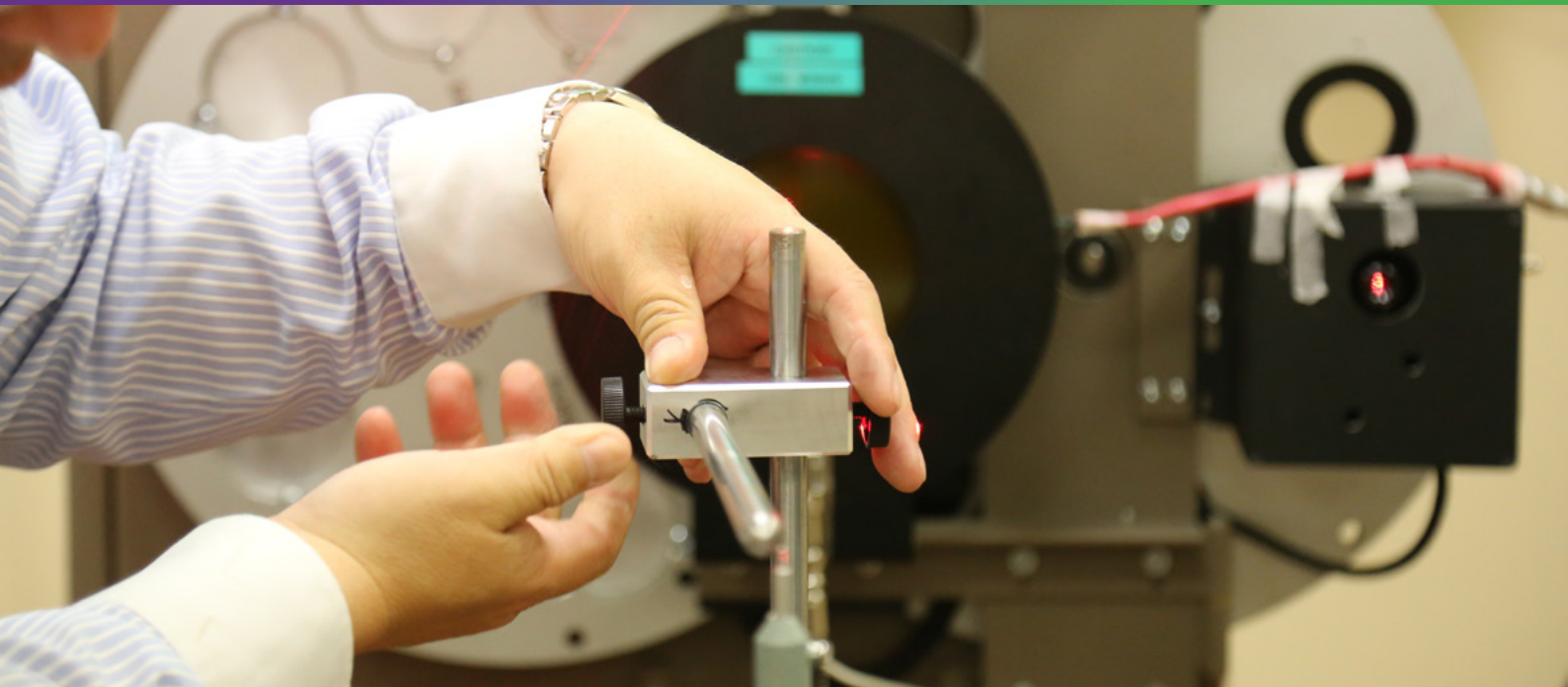
ARPANSA would like to thank all of the facilities that participated in the nuclear medicine survey back in 2014/15. We have attempted to send out reports to all participants with a comparison of their doses with the DRLs. If you participated but did not receive a report, please email us at [\*\*ndrld@arpansa.gov.au\*\*](mailto:ndrld@arpansa.gov.au)



### Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (DIAS) guidance

With new DRLs comes new responsibilities – to both your state/territory regulators and under the DIAS. DIAS has published a [\*\*handy guide\*\*](#) on comparing your doses to the DRLs and the good news is it isn't as burdensome as it might at first appear.

If your accreditation is up for review soon, please note that DIAS will not be requiring audit records for nuclear medicine DRLs until 1 July 2018.



## Other modalities



### Image Guided Interventional Procedures (IGIP)

Data collection for IGIP continues apace. We have received submissions from 34 rooms at 15 facilities so far this year. We are hoping to increase awareness of the IGIP survey and increase contributions.

This year we have added surveys for cerebral angiograms that included rotational angiography. If you would like to [\*\*\*participate in the survey\*\*\*](#), you can find more information on our website.

Next year we plan to discuss IGIP DRLs and procedures to survey with a liaison panel. In the meantime we will continue the present IGIP survey and will invite participants to submit new data for 2018.

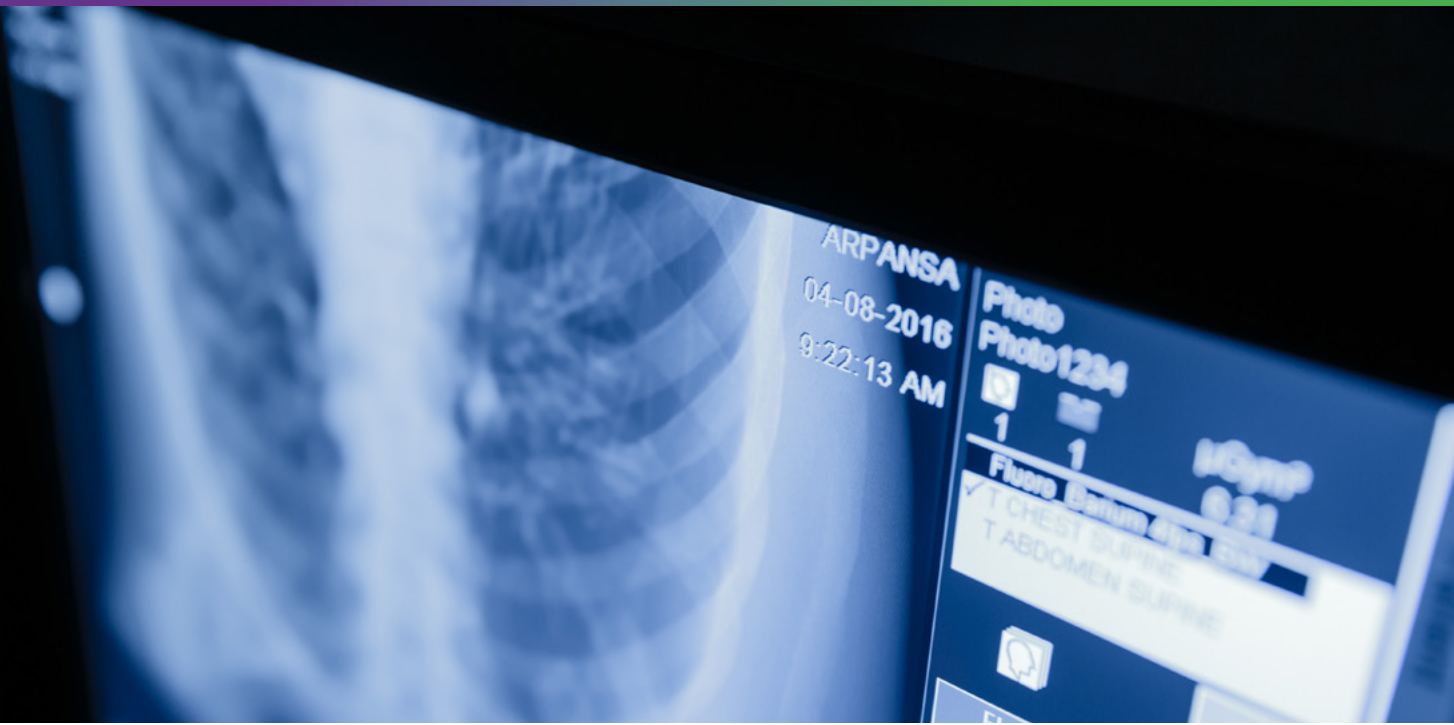


### Mammography

Mammography DRLs have taken a back seat at the NDRLS this year. However, the ACPSEM has published a [\*\*\*new update of their digital mammography QC position paper\*\*\*](#).

The ACPSEM tomosynthesis working group has also updated the Mammography Quality Assurance Program testing procedure to include tomosynthesis QC tests. The update also adds in tests that will allow for easier calculation of DRL values.





## Other news

### ICRP DRL guidance published

The International Commission on Radiological Protection has published [guidance on establishing and maintaining DRLs](#).

ARPANSA will be using the recommendations outlined in this document to inform the formulation/update of the Australian national DRLs.

### NDRLS workshop

The NDRLS ran a workshop at the most recent Engineering and Physical Sciences in Medicine Conference in Hobart. The workshop, attended by about 40 physicists, provided a great opportunity for us to hear about your experiences with DRLs.

We would like to thank the ACPSEM for helping to promote DRLs and providing us with the opportunity to run the workshop. We would also like to thank our two guest speakers (from I-MED and the Alfred hospital).

### Medical radiation exposure code

As some may be aware, ARPANSA is working on drafting a new code for radiation protection in medical exposure intended to replace RPS 14. The draft has passed a couple of important bureaucratic hurdles this year and, as a result, the draft will be released for public comment in 2018. The draft will be made available on the ARPANSA website, so keep checking back if you want to have your say.

### NDRLS website update

Some of you may have noticed that the ARPANSA website was redeveloped during 2017. During 2018, the NDRLS section will be re-written in the hope of making the information that you require easier to find. If you have any suggestions, please contact us at [ndrld@arpansa.gov.au](mailto:ndrld@arpansa.gov.au).