



## The CAR Enhancing Quality Assurance in Radiology Care

A key role of the Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR) is to promote quality assurance in radiology healthcare. How does the CAR fill this role?

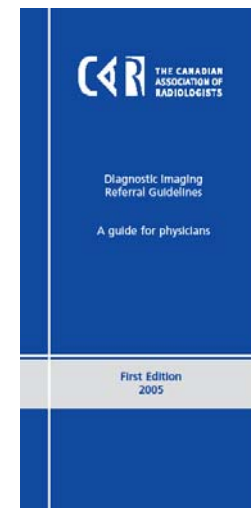
**Guidelines (when you do it)**

**Accreditation Programs (ensuring best results)**

**Standards (how you do it)**

**Advisories**

**Continuing Professional Development**



### **Guidelines (when you do it)**

CAR Diagnostic Imaging Referral Guidelines (being updated in 2009) assist physicians in ordering the most appropriate imaging test for their patient, or the *best test first*.

The CAR recognizes that for maximal effect guidelines must be a *seamless part of the physician's regular workflow*. To achieve this, CAR Guidelines have been integrated into a computerized order entry (CPOE) system for diagnostic imaging.

Results of two CAR projects in Manitoba to test the effectiveness of this form of decision support indicate that in at least 20% of the cases where general practitioners receive advice (2% for specialists), the physicians may follow the advice to change their order, either cancelling it or ordering a more appropriate examination. The CAR is committed to continuing to work with governments and healthcare providers to improve physician compliance with guideline recommendations.

### **Accreditation Programs (ensuring best results)**

The CAR believes that the accreditation of imaging facilities, equipment and staff is an important part of ensuring quality healthcare. The CAR currently provides quality accreditation services through its *CAR Mammography Accreditation Program* which has been in operation for 15 years, accrediting over 600 units.

In 2009 the CAR will introduce a *CAR Bone Mineral Densitometry Facility Accreditation Program*. The CAR will continue to expand its accreditation services in the years ahead.

## Standards (how you do it)

The CAR develops evidence-based standards that define principles of practice to obtain the best radiological results.

Acting as guidelines for healthcare professionals and industry, CAR standards serve to promote high quality care in the use of radiological services for diagnosis and treatment.

## Advisories

When imaging related healthcare issues warrant special attention, the CAR releases advisories, such as the 2008 *CAR National Advisory on Gadolinium Administration and Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis*.

## Continuing Professional Development

Promoting the continuing professional development of radiologists is integral to ensuring quality care for patients. The CAR actively supports *lifelong learning* for radiologists by 1) acting as an accreditor of continuing medical education events on behalf of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and 2) holding its own continuing medical education events including an Annual Scientific Meeting.

## Providing Solutions to Healthcare Challenges

The CAR is committed to providing solutions to the challenges in providing quality imaging services to Canadians. The quality assurance initiatives of the CAR address critical healthcare concerns:

- to ensure *quality patient care and safety* through quality assurance initiatives
- to make the *best use of health human resources and appropriate use of equipment*
- to significantly *reduce wait times* for imaging with more optimal use of healthcare resources

**The CAR is committed to working with federal and provincial governments to provide a vision and path towards quality sustainable healthcare.**

*For more information on CAR quality assurance initiatives contact:*

Adele Fifield, Chief Executive Officer

Canadian Association of Radiologists

310-377 Dalhousie Street, Ottawa, ON, K1N 9N8

Tel: 613-860-3111, ext 200; Email: [afifield@car.ca](mailto:afifield@car.ca)

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