**Background**

Medical imaging is a vital diagnostic tool resulting in yearly Medicare outlays of more than $3B. The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) estimates 1000 cancer deaths annually may ultimately be attributable to radiation exposure from medical imaging.1,2 Research indicates that 20-40% of referrals may be unjustified.3 Only 3 of Australia’s 20 medical schools teach radiation safety and limited ongoing education is available. Radiation safety awareness is highly variable amongst GP referrers. With CT procedures increasing 4x faster than population growth1, improving radiation safety awareness is vital in minimising harm when selecting appropriate imaging procedures.

**Aims**

Many imaging modalities utilise ionising radiation and referring medical practitioners should be aware of the risks, as well as the benefits of radiation. ARPANSA has developed an online education module: Radiation Protection of the Patient (RPOP), aimed at GPs, although is suitable for all referrers and widely used by others.

**Method**

The RPOP Module was developed with key stakeholders including the RACGP, with the College developing an *eLearning* case-study version. Extensive consultation was undertaken with GPs, specialists and radiation experts through interviews, online surveys and focus groups.

**Results**

GPs report that the Module is easy to access and use and provides relevant information on radiation safety. It is concise, taking around 20 minutes to complete. The Module is accessible on most IT platforms. There are self assessment steps built-in, supporting documentation and links to sites for both referrers and patients. The module is currently being reviewed.

**Conclusion**

GPs completing the RPOP Module will enhance their understanding of medical imaging radiation safety and provide better justified referrals. Feedback to make it even better is sought.

**References**

1. Hayton A, Radiat. Prot. Dosimetry 2013 Apr19;156(4):445–450.

2. Wise K. Australas. Phys. Eng. Sci. Med. 2003;26(2):53-61.

**3**. European Commission. 2014. p99 Report:175.