

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

Chief Executives, HSS Trusts, *for cascade to:*

- *Medical Directors*
- *Nursing Directors*

AHP Leads

Chief Executives, HSS Boards, *for cascade to:*

- *Directors of Nursing*
- *Directors of AHP Services*
- *Directors of Public Health*

Chief Executives, Special Agencies

Chief Executive, RQIA, *for cascade to:*

- *the independent sector*
- *relevant regulated establishments*

Chief Officers, HSC Councils

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: November 2008

Dear Colleagues

Standards for the communication of critical, urgent and unexpected significant radiological findings

In July 2007 the Department disseminated advice in circular [HSC \(SQSD\) 32/07](#) based on National Patient Safety Agency: [NPSA Safer Practice Notice 16](#) Early identification of failure to act on radiological imaging reports.

In August 2008 the Royal College of Radiologists issued a publication: [Standards for the communications of critical, urgent and unexpected significant radiological findings](#). This document offers general advice on how to implement the recommendations from the safer practice notice from the National Patient Safety Agency as well as advice on audit.

The report reflects the roll-out of picture archiving and communications systems (PACS) and digital reporting systems. It also recognises that the guidance is likely to change as the circumstances and technology continue to evolve.

I strongly commend the guidance in this publication.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael McBride". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

DR MICHAEL McBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer