



RO-ILS[®]

RADIATION ONCOLOGY
INCIDENT LEARNING SYSTEM

Sponsored by ASTRO and AAPM

CLARITY

PSO

A Patient Safety Organization

RO-ILS Celebrates 2022 National Medical Dosimetrist Day

Medical dosimetrists are critical members of the interdisciplinary radiation oncology clinical team that treats cancer and non-cancerous medical conditions. In addition to treatment planning responsibilities, dosimetrists are an important asset to patient safety efforts.

In the following good catch example, an attentive dosimetrist identified and helped correct a wrong laterality error before it reached the patient.

- A patient with breast cancer was simulated utilizing the practice's standard breast setup, which included having the patient's chin tilted towards the contralateral/unaffected side.
- Target contours were delineated by the radiation oncologist on the patient's left side.
- During treatment planning, the dosimetrist noticed the chin tilt was also to the left side.
- The dosimetrist alerted the physician to the inconsistent chin position, in comparison to the standard setup, at which point it was discovered that the targets were delineated on the incorrect side.
- Contours were redrawn on the patient's right side and planning began.
- The patient was treated to the correct side.

This individual demonstrated situational awareness and felt comfortable requesting clarifications from a colleague, a custom that should be encouraged.

GREAT CATCH DOSIMETRY!

Thousands of events reported to RO-ILS were identified by dosimetrists. RO-ILS celebrates the work and role that dosimetrists play in incident learning as a key partner in quality improvement and patient safety initiatives. Dosimetrists are encouraged to proactively engage in incident learning work in numerous ways: by submitting events to RO-ILS, acting as an internal RO-ILS Reviewer, participating on quality and safety committees, and more.

The interdisciplinary partnership of incident learning is affirmed throughout RO-ILS. RO-ILS is the only incident learning system backed by [specialty societies and vendors](#). The American Association of Medical Dosimetrists is a proud supporter of RO-ILS and dosimetrists serve on the Radiation Oncology Healthcare Advisory Council. Together, the sponsors and supporters enable U.S.-based practices to participate in the RO-ILS program for free, allowing learning to be shared with the radiation oncology community and improvements to be facilitated.

SAFETY CHECK

How does your practice empower dosimetrists and promote a questioning environment?