



Introduction

The EU-funded **CAT-ClinART** project aims to establish a regional network of clinical audits in Catalonia to harmonise and enhance radiotherapy practices. As hospital managers, you play a crucial role in supporting the implementation of this project and ensuring its success.



CAT-ClinART: Optimising the Quality and Safety of Radiotherapy in Catalonia

Context and Need

The **Basic Safety Standards (BSSD) Directive 2013/59** of the European Council requires member states to implement clinical audits in medical radiological practices, including radiotherapy. In Catalonia, there is a lack of standardised methodology and infrastructure for conducting comprehensive clinical audits in radiotherapy. The **CAT-ClinART project addresses this need by providing a framework for systematic and rigorous clinical audits.**

Project Objectives

- **Establish a regional clinical audit framework for radiotherapy in Catalonia**, following the B-QUATRO model.
- **Develop and implement a specialised training course in clinical audits for radiotherapy** based on the QUATRO methodology.
- **Create clinical audit manuals**, including checklists and templates.





Project Objectives

- **Define quality indicators (QIs) and standards for radiotherapy treatment of prostate cancer,** including patient-reported outcomes.
- **Design dosimetry audits** for prostate treatments.
- **Develop a solution for QI collection** and propose a system for automated extraction of QIs from medical records and oncology information systems.
- **Evaluate the sustainability of the proposed methodology beyond the project,** including a proposal for a permanent clinical audit mechanism in Catalonia.
- **Disseminate project outcomes and identified best practices** within the radiotherapy community.

Benefits for Hospitals

- **Improved Quality and Safety of Patient Care:** Clinical audits help identify and address potential deficiencies in clinical practice, ensuring patients receive safe and effective treatment.
- **Compliance with European Regulations:** The project will assist hospitals in meeting the requirements of BSSD 2013/59 regarding clinical audits.
- **Harmonisation of Clinical Practices:** Implementing common standards and guidelines through clinical audits ensures equitable care for all patients, regardless of the treatment centre.
- **Cost Reduction:** Identifying and correcting deficiencies in clinical practice can reduce costs associated with repeated tests, treatment complications, and malpractice claims.
- **Enhanced Hospital Reputation:** Participation in the **CAT-ClinART** project and implementation of clinical audits demonstrate a hospital's commitment to quality and patient safety, which can enhance its reputation and facilitate accreditation as a comprehensive cancer centre.



Support Needed from Hospital Managers

To ensure the success of the **CAT-ClinART** project, the support of hospital managers is essential. This includes:

- **Facilitating Staff Participation in the Auditor Training Course:** Allowing professionals time to attend the auditor training course, which will run from months 1 to 18 of the project.
- **Ensuring Staff Availability for Audits:** Coordinating with department heads to ensure staff availability during the audits, which will take place over one week.
- **Providing Resources for Implementing Audit Recommendations:** Allocating resources to implement audit recommendations, such as purchasing new equipment, modifying protocols, or providing additional staff training.
- **Integrating Clinical Audits into the Hospital's Quality Culture:** Promoting the importance of clinical audits among hospital staff and incorporating them into the hospital's quality management systems.

Long-Term Sustainability

The project aims to **establish a permanent clinical audit mechanism in Catalonia**. To achieve this, a feasibility plan will be developed to address the financial, personnel, and organisational aspects required for periodic audits. This plan will be shared with Catalan health authorities, hospital managers, and radiotherapy department leaders to ensure a shared commitment to the continuity of clinical audits.



Call to Action

We encourage all hospital managers to support the **CAT-ClinART** project and contribute to improving the quality and safety of radiotherapy in Catalonia.

**Your participation is vital
to ensuring all patients receive
the best possible care.**

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about the **CAT-ClinART** project

visit the project website at

www.catclinart.eu

or contact the project coordinator,
Dr. Núria Jornet, at:

catclinart@gmail.com

