

### **Siemens ramps up its support to clinical staff via dose monitoring and reduction measures**

#### **Guide and dedicated education sessions follow recent application innovations**

With a lengthy pedigree in reducing radiation dose by diagnostic and interventional radiology technology innovations, Siemens Healthcare is now the first manufacturer to launch a 'Guide to Low Dose'. It has been developed to support clinical staff in protecting themselves and patients against exposure and complements a growing number of educational courses on the subject.

Siemens Healthcare is focused on the ongoing development of applications that manage dose across the clinical modalities. Traditionally, the ALARA principle - As Low As Reasonably Achievable - has been applied in radiology and nuclear medicine but this compromises image quality for radiation dose. Siemens has therefore developed an entire range of technologies using X-rays or radioactive tracers that enable dose to be reduced significantly without impact on image quality. Combined Applications to Reduce Exposure (CARE) includes: SAFIRE - true raw data based Iterative Reconstruction, a method for the reconstruction of CT images and High Definition PET; CARE KV - automatic selection of the most appropriate KV setting based on the patient size and type of examination; and CARE Analytics, a new application for CT, X-ray, fluoroscopy and angiography to help clinicians and radiographers optimise scan protocols with reduced dose.

Commitment to dose control is also a focus area and all new imaging equipment will issue warning messages to users if a certain dose threshold is exceeded in critical applications, for example CAREguard on Siemens angiography imaging systems. Reports will also be generated detailing patient data and dose values for departments to analyse and optimise protocols accordingly.

An expert panel to advance the cause of dose reduction in CT has also been established. Siemens Radiation Reduction Alliance (SIERRA) consists of sixteen specialists internationally recognised in their fields of radiology, cardiology and physics. The alliance is generating proposals on improving technology and advising how users can help to bring about further dose reduction in the future.

"Siemens has pioneered the development of dose reduction technologies for many years," states Russell Lodge, CT Business Manager at Siemens Healthcare. "With a solid product portfolio that focuses on speed, image quality and low dose, we need to ensure that there is a good level of education inside the health environment. Training sessions and education literature is a way to cement our commitment to our customers and keep them fully up-to-date with the extensive functionality we offer."

Jane Whittaker, Angiography Business Manager at Siemens Healthcare adds, "We strive to implement all dose reduction, monitoring and reporting methods available to the interventional market today without compromise on image quality. Our solutions clearly follow the ALARA principle to reduce dose and the Siemens CARE research and development philosophy looks to further advance this."

To obtain a 'Guide to Low Dose' or to register interest for educational sessions please go to [www.siemens.co.uk/registerinterest](http://www.siemens.co.uk/registerinterest)

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### **About Siemens Healthcare**

The **Siemens Healthcare Sector** is one of the world's largest suppliers to the healthcare industry and a trendsetter in medical imaging, laboratory diagnostics, medical information technology and hearing aids. Siemens offers its customers products and solutions for the entire range of patient care from a single source – from prevention and early detection to diagnosis, and on to treatment and aftercare. By optimizing clinical workflows for the most common diseases, Siemens also makes healthcare faster, better and more cost-effective. Siemens Healthcare employs some 48,000 employees worldwide and operates around the world. In fiscal year 2010 (to September 30), the Sector posted revenue of 12.4 billion euros and profit of around 750 million euros. For further information please visit: [www.siemens.com/healthcare](http://www.siemens.com/healthcare).

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**Picture caption:** Siemens Healthcare continues its focus on dose monitoring and reduction with the launch of a 'Guide to Low Dose' and dedicated education sessions to complement its technical innovations.



Guide to Low Dose

Answers for life.

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