

Competencies of the therapeutic radiographer practising in the linear accelerator – Thematic analysis of the literature

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**L-Università
ta' Malta**

Background



World Health Organization (2009)



Directive EC/2005/36

According to published literature, what are the competencies of the therapeutic radiographer practising in the linear accelerator?



Methodology

Academic search complete, CINAHL Plus with Full Text, MEDLINE, PubMed, ScienceDirect, ProQuest Education Journals, ERIC (ProQuest), Radiography journal, tipsRO journal

Systematic search of literature databases

- “therapeutic radiographer”
 - “competencies”
 - “linear accelerator”
- + Synonyms

Guidelines and benchmarking documents

Snowballing

Results – relevant literature

**Database
search
(n=114)**

**-14
duplicates
(n=110)**

**-88 abstract
analysis
(n=22)**

**+6
snowballing
(n=28)**

Methodology

Identification of competencies in the literature

Thematic analysis

List of competencies

Verified by researchers and external experts

Results – Competencies list

**Dimensions
(themes)**

Competency

QUALITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

A total of 170 competencies organised in 16 themes

Mix of technical and non-technical (“soft-kills”) competencies

– Recognise the radiation hazards in the workplace

Conclusion

Multiple and
complex
competencies

Literature
complements
each other

EQF level 6

Pan-European
list →
stakeholders

Safer movement
& easier
recognition

Better care for
patients

Thank You!

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World Health Organisation, 2009. Migration of health personnel in the WHO European Region. URL: http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/95689/E93039.pdf

European Parliament, European Council, 2005. Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications [WWW Document]. URL <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LEXUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:255:0022:0142:EN:PDF> (accessed 7.2.17).

European Parliament, European Council, 2013. Directive 2013/55/EU amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications and Regulation (EU) and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System ('the IMI Regulation').

University of Otago, Wellington, 2014. Becoming a Radiation Therapist - What is it really like?. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EraKlnPYZfc>

Inclusion criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competencies of TRs practising on the linear accelerator.• IMRT/VMAT techniques are included due to extended use of this modality in current practice. <p>The statements in the literature were considered to be a “competency” when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The literature considered them as such or• The literature identified that a certain task is performed under TRs’ autonomy and responsibility (as per EFQ definition²⁹).
Exclusion criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competencies specific to other roles of the TR (planning, CT, mould room, manual calculations).• Competencies related to advanced techniques (SRT, SRS, adaptive RT, MRI-linac)• Competencies in veterinary radiotherapy• Competencies developed in further education (above those required to practise)• Non-English publications• Publications discussing competencies from countries outside Europe