



# **Technical Meeting on Radiation Protection of Paediatric and Pregnant Patients**

**IAEA Headquarters  
Vienna, Austria**

**27 February - 1 March 2023**

**Ref. No.: EVT2103335**

## **Information Sheet**

### **Introduction**

The rapid advance of medical radiation technology has opened new opportunities for improved diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other diseases. As a result, the use of medical radiological procedures has continued to increase, as noted in the latest report relating to medical exposure to ionizing radiation of the United Nations Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR). Although the frequency varies significantly among countries and modalities, it is estimated that approximately 3-10% of all radiological procedures are performed on children. Owing to the greater risk of incurring radiation induced stochastic effects in children and the higher radiosensitivity of the embryo or fetus, children and pregnant female patients may require more attention to ensure a balance is achieved between the medical benefits and risks.

The International Basic Safety Standards, published in the IAEA Safety Standards Series No. GSR Part 3, require special consideration with respect to justification and optimization of radiation protection for patients who are pregnant or breast-feeding, or are paediatric. Guidance for their practical implementation is provided in the IAEA Specific Safety Guide SSG-46, Safety Report Series No. 71, and further resources, including training and information material, are provided by the IAEA through the specialised website on Radiation Protection of Patients. Other international organizations and professional bodies also provide guidance and training resources for radiation protection of the paediatric and pregnant patients.

The Bonn Call for Action by the IAEA and WHO, calls for a holistic approach and international cooperation aiming at identifying and implementing solutions to address existing and emerging challenges, and highlights ten main actions and related sub-actions for the strengthening of radiation protection in medicine over the next decade. These actions apply to radiation protection of children, with a special emphasis given to the need to strengthen investigations in low-dose health effects and radiological risks from external and internal exposures, especially in children and pregnant women (Action 5), as well as to ensure establishment, use of, and regular update of diagnostic reference levels for radiological procedures, including interventional procedures, in particular for children (Action 2).

Considering that a decade passed since the release of the Bonn Call for Action, and owing to the rapid advance of medical practices and the importance of the radiation protection for the most sensitive groups, the IAEA calls this Technical Meeting.

## Objectives

The meeting has the following objectives:

- To review the current state of knowledge on the radiation effects in the embryo, fetus and children, as well as the technology and clinical advances and new aspects related to ensuring balance between benefits and risks in medical uses of ionizing radiation for paediatric, pregnant and breastfeeding patients.
- To provide a platform for sharing information from the Member States and professional bodies about the successes and challenges in the practical implementation of the principles of justification and optimization of radiation protection for these special groups, including tools such as referral guidelines for imaging, diagnostic reference levels, clinical protocols tailored to the specific patient needs, use of patient shielding, etc.
- To identify the needs for the development of guidance and tools for ensuring the radiation protection of paediatric, pregnant and breastfeeding patients undergoing diagnostic and therapeutic medical exposures.

## Target Audience

Participants should be health professionals or radiation protection experts involved in diagnostic radiology, interventional, nuclear medicine or radiation therapy procedures performed on children and young adults.

## Working Language(s)

English

## Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State, participants are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) for onward transmission to the IAEA by **16 January 2023**. Participants who are members of an organization invited to attend are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** through their organization to the IAEA by above deadline.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

## Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made using the **Grant Application Form (Form C)** which has to be stamped, signed and submitted by the competent national authority to the IAEA together with the **Participation Form (Form A)** by **16 January 2023**.

## Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:

<https://www.iaea.org/events>.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

## Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

## Organization

### Scientific Secretary

**Ms Jenia Nachkova Vassileva**

Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security

International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna International Centre

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## **Administrative Secretary**

### **Ms Julia Fulford**

Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety  
Department of Nuclear Safety and Security  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
Vienna International Centre  
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1400 VIENNA  
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Email: [J.Fulford@iaea.org](mailto:J.Fulford@iaea.org)

Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.

# Participation Form

## Technical Meeting on Radiation Protection of Paediatric and Pregnant Patients

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

27 February to 1 March 2023

To be completed by the participant and sent to the competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA, or National Atomic Energy Authority) of his/her country for subsequent transmission to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) either by email to: [Official.Mail@iaea.org](mailto:Official.Mail@iaea.org) or by fax to: +43 1 26007 (no hard copies needed). Please also send a copy by email to the Scientific Secretary, Ms Jenia Nachkova Vassileva, Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security (Email: [J.Vassileva@iaea.org](mailto:J.Vassileva@iaea.org)) and to the Administrative Secretary, Ms Julia Fulford, (Email: [J.Fulford@iaea.org](mailto:J.Fulford@iaea.org)).

Participants who are members of an invited organization can submit this form to their organization for subsequent transmission to the IAEA.

**Deadline for receipt by IAEA through official channels: 16 January 2023**

|  |  |       |
|--|--|-------|
| Family name(s): (same as in passport)  | First name(s): (same as in passport)   | Mr/Ms |
| Institution:   |  |       |
| Full address:  |  |       |
| Tel. (Fax):  |  |       |
| Email:   |  |       |
| Nationality:   | Representing following Member State/non-Member State/entity or invited organization: |       |
| If/as applicable:<br>Your speciality/profession:<br>Your field of work:  |  |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radiology<br><input type="checkbox"/> Nuclear medicine<br><input type="checkbox"/> Interventional procedures<br><input type="checkbox"/> Radiation oncology<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify): |  |       |

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.



# Grant Application Form

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### Deadline for receipt by IAEA through official channels as per Conference Announcement.

|                                       |                                      |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Family name(s): (same as in passport) | First name(s): (same as in passport) | Mr/Ms: |
| Mailing address:                      | Tel.:                                |        |
|                                       | Fax:                                 |        |
|                                       | Email:                               |        |
| Date of birth (yyyy/mm/dd):           | Nationality:                         |        |

#### 1. Education (post-secondary):

| Name and place of institution | Field of study | Diploma or Degree | Years attended<br>from          to |  |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|
|                               |                |                   |                                    |  |
|                               |                |                   |                                    |  |
|                               |                |                   |                                    |  |

#### 2. Recent employment record (starting with your present post):

| Name and place of employer/<br>organization | Title of your<br>position | Type of work | Years attended<br>from          to |  |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|
|   |                           |              |                                    |  |
|   |                           |              |                                    |  |

#### 3. Description of work performed over the last three years:

**4. Institute's/Member State's programme in field of event:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature of applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name, signature and stamp of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority**

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