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EP-606 An audit to assess the requests for plain abdominal radiographs for surgical conditions for the patients admitted in SAU are appropriate

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Aim: To ensure that requests for plain AXR for surgical conditions for the patients admitted in SAU are performed appropriately as advised by Royal College of Radiologists guidelines. We intend to reduce the radiation dose and early access to more appropriate investigations.

RCR iRefer guidelines for AXR

- Clinical suspicion of obstruction
- Exacerbation of IBD
- Palpable mass
- Constipation
- Acute and chronic pancreatitis
- Sharp/poisonous/smooth foreign body

Methods: Patients admitted in SAU with abdominal pain in the month of October 2020 were taken. Total number of patients audited 50.

In this 28 patients (56%); 16 (58%) of them directly underwent higher imaging CT scan as they were quite unwell on arrival. Remaining 12 (42%) did not have abdominal x ray in line with the guidelines.

Out of 22 patients who had abdominal X-ray; 8 (36%) were not indicated which is too high in keeping with guidelines.

In this 22 patients who did have an X-ray, 68% were not indicated which is too high in keeping with guidelines.

This in turn delayed the referral to appropriate services and increased radiation exposure over the patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1. – 28(56%) patients had an x-ray 15(68%) of these were not indicated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cholecystitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anorectal bleeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendicitis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diverticulosis</td>
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<td>COPD</td>
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Conclusion:

- The compliance for abdominal x ray needs to 100% in line with the guidelines.
- Out 22 patients who did have an X-ray, 68% were not indicated which is too high in keeping with guidelines.
- This in turn delayed the referral to appropriate services and increased radiation exposure over the patients.