
CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN IMAGING REFERRAL GUIDELINES

ESR iGUIDE is a clinical decision support system for European imaging referral guidelines developed by the European Society of Radiology (ESR) and National Decision Support Company (NDSC).

Combining the medical expertise of the ESR with NDSC's trusted clinical decision support platform, **ESR iGUIDE** offers an efficient, traceable and reliable way of supporting the request of the most appropriate imaging exams in daily practice. **ESR iGUIDE** provides users with guidelines and recommendations based on the latest medical evidence, integrates seamlessly into the clinical workflow and existing IT infrastructure, supports and educates referring physicians, and gives patients confidence that they receive the best radiological healthcare.

iGUIDE

WHY CDS?

- Addressing the lack of use of imaging referral guidelines in Europe
- Supporting the selection of more appropriate imaging procedures
- Keeping guidelines up-to-date through continuous updates
- Seamless integration into the clinical workflow
- User-friendly availability at the point of care
- More reliable and traceable justification process
- Educational benefits through appropriateness feedback
- Creating awareness for gaps in availability of imaging equipment

ABOUT THE ESR'S CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT INITIATIVE

Following an ESR-led European Commission study revealing that imaging referral guidelines are hardly used in Europe, the ESR initiated a project to make evidence-based guidelines available in a user-friendly way. Clinical decision support offers an ideal solution, as guidelines can be kept up to date while being available to referring physicians at the point of care.

In cooperation with the American College of Radiology (ACR) and NDSC, the ESR has adapted the ACR Appropriateness Criteria embedded in ACR Select for use in Europe. An ESR working group on imaging referral guidelines was established in 2016, working with ACR experts in a joint rapid response team to keep the guidelines up to date and review user feedback. The ESR's guidelines are licensed to European healthcare providers within **ESR iGUIDE** by NDSC, supporting referrers in selecting the most appropriate imaging exams for their patients.

In addition to decision support integrated in electronic referral workflows, a stand-alone **ESR iGUIDE** web portal was launched at ECR 2018. This service is free of charge for ESR radiologist members, and after a general six-month free use period a monthly subscription option is available for all other individuals from October 2018.

DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN IMAGING REFERRAL GUIDELINES

ESR experts review and adapt the content for **ESR iGuide** from the ACR Appropriateness Criteria, consisting of clinical scenarios and indications and associated imaging exams, for ten topics:



- Breast Imaging
- Cardiac Imaging
- Gastrointestinal Imaging
- Musculoskeletal Imaging
- Neurologic Imaging
- Paediatric Imaging
- Thoracic Imaging
- Urologic Imaging
- Vascular Imaging
- Women's Imaging

The appropriateness of each imaging exam is scored on a scale of one to nine, with ratings divided into three categories. The ESR's standard European guidelines can be localised according to national or institutional requirements, for example by taking into account criteria such as the availability of certain types of equipment. The ESR's working group periodically releases new **ESR iGUIDE** content versions in cooperation with ACR through the rapid response team.

OUR MISSION

The ESR is committed to ensuring patients across Europe receive radiological services of the highest quality and safety. The lack of adherence to imaging referral guidelines must be addressed in order to improve appropriateness in medical imaging in Europe. User-friendly CDS solutions are an effective and proven way to achieve this. Following the release and widespread adoption of ACR Select in the United States since 2012, the **ESR iGUIDE** initiative aims to bring the benefits of CDS to European healthcare professionals and patients.

TIMELINE

December 2013	ESR-led European Commission tender study reveals lack of use of imaging referral guidelines
March 2014	ESR, ACR and NDSC announce partnership to introduce CDS for imaging guidelines in Europe
March 2015	Demo version of ESR iGUIDE launched at ECR 2015
September 2015	Finalisation of the ESR's European imaging referral guidelines
December 2015	ESR-ACR agreement to form joint rapid response team
March 2016	Establishment of ESR working group on referral guidelines
Since 2016	ESR iGUIDE pilot tests and periodic content updates
ECR 2018	Launch of new ESR iGUIDE web portal



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