This IAEA Guide is an important addition to the existing IAEA TCS 56 Guide Postgraduate Medical Physics Academic Programmes, 2013.

The Guide highlights the need for medical physics certification and shows its benefits. It also provides information on the establishment of national or regional certification schemes.

The Guide is 34 pages and has the following structure:

1. Introduction
2. Terminology
2.1. Medical Physics Professionals
2.2. Other Relevant Terminology
3. Certification Frameworks
3.1. Benefits of the Certification Of Clinically Qualified Medical Physicists
3.2. The Scope of the Medical Physics Profession
3.3. General Requirements for Medical Physics Certification
3.4. Documentation Required for Certification
3.5. Assessment Process of Candidates by the Certification Body
3.6. Ethics and Data Security
4. Establishing a Certification Process
4.1. Equivalence of Certification Body
4.2. Pathways Towards the Establishment of a Certification Body: Availability Of Professionals
4.3. Establishing a Certification Body
4.4. Factors Affecting the Sustainability of a Certification Body
5. Maintaining Certification
5.1. Registry
5.2. Continuing Professional Development Process
5.3. Re-Certification
6. Conclusions

The Guide includes definitions of medical physics professionals from various organisations. It also presents Framework for Certification as well as its benefits for medical physicists.

The requirements for certification are listed, including the necessary documents. These are further complemented by description of the assessment process related to certification. The certification process is very well described, including the pathway for establishing a Certification Body (supported by a flowchart of the necessary steps). Further the factors for sustainability of a Certification Body are listed.

The Guide describes the maintenance of registration – Register and CPD process, supported by a possible system of categories for CPD. The re-certification is also included.

The Guide includes an Appendix with examples for Certification Application Forms and references.

The Guide has been developed by IAEA in collaboration with established specialists from various Regional Organisations of IOMP.

The contributors to the Guide are:

Azangwe, G. National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe
Borrás, C. Retired, Spain
Chougule, A. SMS Medical College & Hospital, India
Christaki, K. International Atomic Energy Agency
De Almeida, C.E. Retired, Brazil
Kron, T. Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Australia
Lammertsma, A. VU University Medical Center, Netherlands
Loreti, G. International Atomic Energy Agency
Meghzifene, A. International Atomic Energy Agency
Padovani, R. International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Italy
Ravindran, P. Christian Medical College, India
van der Merwe, D. International Atomic Energy Agency
The Guide has been endorsed by the International Medical Physics Certification Board (IMPCB) and the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP). It can be downloaded from: https://www.iaea.org/publications/14746/guidelines-for-the-certification-of-clinically-qualified-medical-physicists

The IAEA TCS 71 is an excellent publication which will be of great importance for the further global development of medical physics.

I was very happy to be part of the first meeting of the project in May 2018.

Reviewed by:
Slavik Tabakov, PhD, Dr h.c., FIPEM, FHEA, FIOMP, FIUPESM, Vice-President IUPESM, Past President IOMP, King’s College London, UK