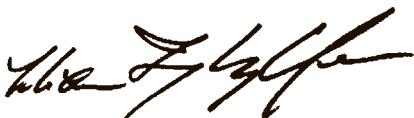


FOREWORD

Pioneered by Hong Kong College of Radiologists, the first edition of the Clinical Referral Guidelines published in 1999 came into the hands of radiologists and clinicians in Hong Kong at a time when knowledge and technology in Radiology started to grow rapidly. From the outset, the guidelines was developed with a clear objective to provide a useful reference for how to choose the most optimal radiological tools for the effective delivery of comprehensive and quality patient care and for a better understanding of the roles and limitations of Radiology in specific clinical scenarios.

The past two decades since the emergence of the guidelines has witnessed the continuous and exponential development of Radiology. Today, Radiology is involved in almost every aspect of patient care and has assumed global dimensions in modern medical practices. Not only is Radiology indispensable in making decision, solving clinical dilemmas and monitoring of disease progress, it has also developed as an integral facet on the therapeutic side of disease management and preventive approach in healthcare delivery. To keep abreast of the advancement of medical knowledge and rising standard of patient care, Hong Kong College of Radiologists has revised the Clinical Referral Guidelines. This new version of the guidelines with clinical topics and scenarios carefully selected aims at providing updated information pertinent to Radiology in the face of ever-increasing complexity and specialization in various fields of medical science. This daunting task has been accomplished by devoted efforts of the Radiologists of Hong Kong through literature appraisal, peer review and referencing on published guidelines and expert opinions. I am confident that their efforts have been translated into a piece of work which will be proven highly useful for better care of our patients. With this well-structured seminal reference, I believe Hong Kong College of Radiologists has continued to provide the medical community the foundation for the understanding on the current role of Radiology in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.



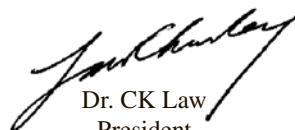
Dr. Lilian Leong
Founding President & Immediate Past President
Hong Kong College of Radiologists

December 2017

FOREWORD

Radiology is one of the fastest developing medical specialties. With rapid innovation in technology and expansion in medical knowledge, radiology has taken an important role in the clinical management of diseases and even more so in the screening of healthy subjects. Appropriate utilization of radiological investigation brings along tremendous advantages to the quality, safety and efficiency of clinical practice. On the other hand, over-investigation especially with imaging modalities that incur ionizing radiation is not only wasteful of health care resources but also hazardous to population health. In the midst of increasing complexity and specialization in various fields of medicine, an evidence based guideline would be invaluable for medical practitioners to employ appropriate imaging investigations in different clinical contexts.

Our College first published Clinical Referral Guidelines in 1999 to promote cost-effective, efficient and evidence based medicine, in keeping with our College objectives to develop and maintain the good practice of radiology. Witnessing the swift development of medicine and advancement of radiological investigations in the past two decades, update of the Clinical Referral Guidelines would be obligatory to upkeep these objectives. The revision of the Guidelines was accomplished through intensive effort and collaboration of a group of dedicated Fellows from the three specialties of the College, namely Radiology, Clinical Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, over the past few years. I hope the updated version of Clinical Referral Guidelines would encourage vigilance and conscientiousness in the use of radiological investigations, and eventually improve the quality of health care in Hong Kong.



Dr. CK Law
President

Hong Kong College of Radiologists

December 2017