

Malaysia Needs More Physicists To Ensure Patients Receive Proper Treatment
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PUTRAJAYA, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysia needs more physicists to meet the demands for diagnostic and therapeutic services, said Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahya.

He said there were a total of 253 physicists serving in hospitals across the country, and that amount was not enough.

"These staff are very important in order to precisely calculate the doses which should be administered on a patient who needs radiotherapy, especially children.

"If they are not given the right dose, too much for example, the consequences are extremely dangerous, it may even cause cancer," he told reporters after officiating the International Conference on Radiation Safety and Security in Healthcare Services 2015 here, Saturday.

The conference organised by the Association of Physicists Ministry of Health) (PERFEKS), among others, aimed to provide information on safety and radiation protection for staff, patients and the public, in addition to increasing knowledge of diagnostic and therapeutic services.

Dr Hilmi said that apart from protecting the public and patients from exposure to excessive radiation, responsible physicists should also protect themselves, and avoid being exposed to the substance.

"While technologies bring in new benefits and modern medical equipment is safer, their inappropriate or unskilled use can lead to health hazards for patients and staff," he said.

Meanwhile, PERFEKS' president Nik Mohamed Hazmi Nik Hussain said that to ensure the safety of every staff who administered radiotherapy, special badges would be used throughout the treatment sessions.

"This badge can prevent employees from being exposed directly to rays or dangerous radioactive materials," he said.

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