

Document Control Report

Title			
Medico-Legal and Non Accidental Injury Requests - IR(ME)R 2017 Standard Operating Procedure			
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		Senior Radiographer	
Directorate		Sub-directorate	Department
Operations		Diagnostics	Diagnostic Imaging
		Team/Specialty	
		Radiology	
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0.1	Aug 2017	Draft	Initial version for consultation
0.2	Sept 2017	Draft	Checking detail and amendments to text
1.0	Sept 2017	Final	Final version signed off by Lead Clinician for Radiology
1.1	Nov 2017	Final	Main contact details amended.
2.0	Sept 2020	Final	Reviewed and amended to include updated regulations in both text and references.
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Lead Clinician in Clinical Radiology			
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Superseded Documents			
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Consulted with the following stakeholders:		Contact responsible for implementation and monitoring compliance:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Audit Lead Radiology • Radiologists • Radiographers • Practitioner Referrers • Medical Physics 		Radiology Governance Lead	
		Education/ training will be provided by:	
		Radiology Governance Lead	
Approval and Review Process			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Clinician in Clinical Radiology 			

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Local Path

Radiology Clinical Governance /IRMER/ SOP Medico-legal and non-accidental injury requests

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Policy categories for Trust's internal website (Bob)

Diagnostic Imaging Trust's internal website

Tags for Trust's internal website (Bob)

Referral, Referrer, Practitioner, Operator, Medical Physics,

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1. Introduction

The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations {IR(ME)R} 2017 were introduced to protect patients against the hazards associated with the use of ionising radiation in medical settings.

This Standard Operating Procedure is intended for the guidance for requesting Medico-legal and Non accidental injury examinations. Please also see specific departmental Standard Operating Procedures and protocols for Post-mortem and Forensic Imaging examinations.

There are legal implications that need to be considered and so it is important that protocols and guidelines are followed to ensure continuity of evidence is upheld.

2. Purpose

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been written to:

- Clarify the process involved in obtaining authorisation for making requests for medico-legal and non-accidental injury examinations
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved in making requests for medico-legal and non-accidental injury examinations.

3. Scope

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) relates to the following staff groups who may be involved in the making requests for medico-legal and non-accidental injury examinations.

- Radiographers (Operators)
- Radiologists (Practitioners)
- Medical Referrers
- Non-Medical Referrers
- Medical Physics

4. Location

This Standard Operating Procedure applies to those making requests for medico-legal and non-accidental injury examinations in the Northern Devon Healthcare Trust.

5. Equipment

Radiology request forms both paper and electronic.

All Radiology imaging equipment on the above sites including General and A+E x-ray units, AMX Mobile imaging machines, Dental imaging equipment, Mobile Image Intensifiers, Interventional fluoroscopy equipment, CT and DEXA.

6. Procedure

All requests for medico-legal X-rays must be referred to a Consultant Radiologist for justification/authorization. Medico-legal procedures will only be undertaken with the consent of the patient or in the case of adults or children without capacity their legal guardian or person with parental responsibility (Please also see departmental SOP for Radiographers undertaking the imaging of patients for forensic purposes).

All requests for X-rays in cases of suspected non-accidental injury in children should be referred to a Consultant Radiologist. All Imaging should be performed in accordance with departmental Standard Operating Procedures and Protocols.

7. References

- Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposures) Regulations 2017. Statutory Instruments 2017 No 1322
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1322/pdfs/ukxi_20171322_en.pdf
- Radiology authorisation and IRMER assessment working practice document.
- Ionising (Medical Exposures) Regulations 2000. Statutory Instruments 2000 No 1059 – <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2000/20001059.htm>
- IRMER – Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposures) Amendment Regulations 2006
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/ukxi_20062523_en.pdf
- Guidance for Radiographers providing Forensic Radiography Services (2014)
www.sor.org/printpdf/book/export/html/11561

8. Associated Documentation

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust Policies for:

- Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust Radiation Policy
- Northern Devon Healthcare SOP 'Making a Referral for Diagnostic Imaging'
- Radiology Department Standard Operating Procedure for Radiographers undertaking the imaging of patients for forensic purposes. (File Path: RADIOLOGY G DRIVE/Radiology/X-Ray/Protocols & Guidelines/Post-mortem and Forensic Protocols/Radiographers undertaking the imaging of patients for forensic purposes.)

- Radiology Department Standard Operating Procedure for Radiographers undertaking Post mortem skeletal surveys. (File Path: RADIOLOGY G DRIVE/Radiology/X-Ray/Protocols & Guidelines/Post-mortem and Forensic Protocols/Radiographers undertaking post mortem skeletal surveys.)