

## Document Control Report

<b>Title</b>			
Non-Medical Imaging Exposures - IR(ME)R 2017 Standard Operating Procedure			
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1.0	May 2018	Final	Final version signed off by Lead Clinician for Radiology at RMG Meeting.
	Dec 2020	Final	Reviewed and updated in line with updated guidance.
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<b>Consulted with the following stakeholders:</b>		<b>Contact responsible for implementation and monitoring compliance:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Audit Lead Radiology</li> <li>• Radiologists</li> <li>• Radiographers</li> <li>• Practitioner Referrers</li> <li>• Medical Physics</li> </ul>		Radiology Governance Lead	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Clinician in Clinical Radiology</li> </ul>			

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**Policy categories for Trust's internal website (Bob)**

Diagnostic Imaging Trust's internal website

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## 1. Introduction

The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations {IR(ME)R} were introduced to protect patients against the hazards associated with the use of ionising radiation in medical settings. The updated version in 2017 adds extra legislation to also cover Non-medical imaging exposures.

Non-medical imaging exposures under IR(ME)R 2017 are defined as “any deliberate exposure of humans for imaging purposes where the primary intention of the exposure is not to bring health benefit to the individual being exposed”.

This Standard Operating Procedure is intended for the guidance for requesting Non-medical 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 Non-medical imaging examinations
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved in making requests for Non-medical imaging examinations.

## 3. Scope

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) relates to the following staff groups who may be involved in the making requests for non-medical imaging 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 non-medical imaging exposures must be referred to a Consultant Radiologist for justification/authorization. Non-medical imaging 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.

All Imaging should be performed in accordance with departmental Standard Operating Procedures and Protocols.

Non-Medical imaging exposures may be, for example, but are not limited to:

- Exposures made for the purpose of research.
- Exposures made for the purpose of immigration.
- Exposures made for the purpose of forensic investigation, for example:
  - Radiological assessment of bone age in those seeking asylum in the UK but lacking in legal documentation.
  - Radiological investigation of individuals who may have drugs either packed or stuffed but without justified clinical indications for investigation.

## 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](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](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/ukxi_20062523_en.pdf)

## 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'
- Northern Devon Healthcare SOP 'Making ionising radiation exposures for the purpose of research'
- 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.)