

IRMER (i) Procedure for Providing that whenever practicable and prior to an exposure taking place, the individual to be exposed is provided with adequate information relating to the benefits and risks associated with the radiation dose from the exposure.

Breast Imaging Department

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017 Regulation 6 Schedule 2 Employer's Procedures

(i) Procedure for providing that whenever practicable and prior to an exposure taking place, the individual to be exposed is provided with adequate information relating to the benefits and risks associated with the radiation dose from the exposure

Responsibilities relating to IR(ME)R procedures:

Ensuring the required IR(ME)R procedures are in place	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT)
Authorisation of Breast Imaging IR(ME)R procedures	Clinical Director of Breast Imaging
Development, review and amendment to this document	Superintendent Radiographer
Assisting in development, review and amendment to this document	Radiation Protection Supervisors

Governance pathway:

Medical Physics Expert review (IRS)	12.7.2024
Submission to Breast Directorate for approval	11.1.2023
Circulation to Women and Children Division for information	1.3.2023
Circulation to Radiation Protection Committee for information	28.4.2023
Authorised by Clinical Director of Breast Imaging	1.3.2023

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Version No	Reviewed	Action	Next Review Date
1	9.12.22 IRS	Revision of format and IRMER audit	1.3.2026
2	12.7.2024 IRS JB	No changes	12.7.2025

Purpose

To ensure that individuals to be exposed or their representative are made aware of the benefits and risks of a medical exposure prior to it taking place.

Scope

This procedure applies to any exposure to ionizing radiation for the purposes of the activities defined by Regulation 3 of IR(ME)R 2017.

Responsibility

The Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust is responsible for the content of this procedure and for making the necessary information available to referrers, practitioners and operators.

Wherever practicable and dependent on the imaging procedure or exposure to be delivered, referrers, practitioners and operators are responsible for ensuring that the necessary information has been communicated to the individual or their representative prior to the exposure taking place.

Procedure

The delivery of information concerning the benefits and risks associated with radiation dose will be dependent on the level of risk associated with the planned exposure and are broadly defined according one of three levels of risk (Low, Medium, Moderate) corresponding to the level of risk associated with the exposure.

Low risk procedures include: mammography, general radiography involving individual radiographs, low dose fluoroscopy procedures, dental radiography and bone densitometry. Relevant information will usually be delivered in the form of posters displayed in the radiology department waiting areas or a laminated information leaflet where low risk procedures are delivered outside of the radiology department.

Breast Screening invitation letters (Appendix 2) include QR codes directing women to the Gov.UK webpage for Breast Screening : *Helping Women Decide* information is available in several languages:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/breast-screening-helping-women-decide>

There is also a link to a more accessible guide: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/breast-screening-information-for-women-with-learning-disabilities>

Posters giving information regarding the risks and benefits of mammography are displayed at all sites.

Audit Process

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This procedure and the benefits and risk information shall be subject to periodic audit in accordance with the organizations audit policy.

References: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-from-medical-imaging-examinations-safety-advice/exposure-to-ionising-radiation-from-medical-imaging-safety-advice>

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