

IRMER (k) Procedure for ensuring that the probability and magnitude of accidental or unintended doses to the patient are reduced so far as is reasonably practicable.

## Breast Imaging Department

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

**(k) Procedure for ensuring that the probability and magnitude of accidental or unintended doses to the patient are reduced so far as is reasonably practicable.**

**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

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

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## Objective

To limit the likelihood and extent of accidental or unintended exposure of patients, either through equipment malfunction or procedural breakdown.

## Scope

All medical exposures carried out by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust Breast Imaging Service Incorporating Hereford and Worcester Breast Screening Service.

## Responsibility

**Preventative maintenance and repair:** Superintendent Radiographer

**QA:** Superintendent Radiographer, QA Radiographer, Medical physics staff

**Equipment fault and incident reporting, equipment operation:** all IR(ME)R operators.

## Practice

1. The identity of the patient is checked prior to any radiation exposure, following the IR(ME)R procedure (a)
2. If appropriate to the examination, enquiries are made of individuals of childbearing age to establish whether they are pregnant or breastfeeding, according to the IR(ME)R procedure (c).
3. Equipment, where appropriate, is subject to a regular preventative maintenance programme.
4. Equipment is subject to a QA programme as required by the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017, including
  - commissioning tests before it is first used for clinical purposes
  - testing at regular intervals and after any major maintenance
  - representative patient dose assessments.
5. Equipment faults are logged and reported to the Superintendent Radiographer or nominated deputy.
6. A formal procedure is followed for hand-over of equipment for maintenance.
7. Equipment that is exhibiting faults likely to cause patient dose overexposure is immediately taken out of use until repaired.
8. All operators undergo appropriate in-house training on the operation and testing of equipment.
9. All incidents are reported and investigated following the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust Incident Reporting Policy.
10. The reasons for incidents are reviewed and appropriate action taken to prevent recurrence.
11. Care is taken at all times whilst examining patients to select and operate equipment correctly.

Author(s): D.Fox J.Broomer	Authorised by: Dr P.Haggett	Issue Date: 12.7.2024	Review date: 12.7.2025
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