

Breast Imaging Service

Local Rules (Faxitron) to ensure compliance with IRR 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-medical-exposure-regulations-2017-guidance>

Complete Local Rules location: M:\TeamShare\TS0040_BreastImaging\Radiation Protection

Responsibilities relating to Breast Imaging Local Rules:	
Ensuring the required Local rules are in place	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT)
Authorisation of Breast Imaging Local Rules	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)	30.8.2022
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	30.8.22 IRS	Revision of format and IRR compliance audit	10.1.2026
2	10.1.2025 IRS	No changes to content	

Local Rules (Abridged) Faxitron

Controlled Area contained within the machine

Equipment	Location	Controlled area
Faxitron specimen cabinets	WBU: Room 3 KTC: theatre Alex Breast unit + theatre	Controlled area contained within the machine

System of work:

- Exposures only to be made by suitably trained staff or appropriately supervised trainees.
- Record of staff trained to be held and maintained in theatre
- The operator must ensure the faxitron is functioning correctly in line with QC protocol
- Normal working – **It is confirmed during commissioning that there is no leakage from the cabinet and therefore no expected dose to the operator.**

Local investigation level for staff involved in mammography: 1mSv in a year

Contingency:

- **All staff who operate the X-ray equipment must establish the location of the main power switch before using the equipment.**
 - A warning indicator on the control panel and an audible signal will indicate that X-rays are being emitted.
 - It is unnecessary to rehearse these contingency arrangements.
- 1 If you suspect the faxitron is producing X-rays at a time when X-ray emission is not intended you must:**
 - **Switch of the mains supply immediately** without standing in any direct beam (with help if necessary).
 - Attach a notice to the machine saying that it must not be used
 - Inform the RPS or your manager as soon as possible
 - 2 If you suspect housing failure leading to leakage of radiation from the specimen cabinet**
 - **Switch of the mains supply immediately**
 - Attach a notice to the machine saying that it must not be used
 - Inform the RPS or your manager as soon as possible
 - 3 These incidents may need to be reported** - see separate Procedure for radiation incidents

Pregnant Workers

The IRR 2017 require employers to inform all their female staff who are engaged in work with ionising radiation of the possible hazards arising from radiation exposure, particularly to an unborn child. If your work involves the use of X-rays and you have to be in a controlled or supervised area you must notify your Departmental Manager (and hence your employer) in writing as soon as possible if you become pregnant.

Once notified your manager must take steps to ensure that the dose to your baby from radiation received at work is as low as reasonably practicable and does not exceed 1 mSv. In most cases you will be able to continue your normal duties. You should not take on any extra duties that would increase your whole body dose during pregnancy.

Further information is available in the HSE leaflet: [Working safely with ionising radiation \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/working-safely-with-ionising-radiation/) Guidelines for expectant or breastfeeding mothers

Maintenance and radiation survey of X-ray equipment

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Engineers or Physicists carrying out work on the equipment must follow the documented procedure for Handover of X-ray equipment, assuming responsibility for radiation safety and the controlled area.

Equipment is serviced every 12 months in line with manufacturer's recommendations.

Appendix - Appointed Officers

Radiation Protection Supervisor	Danielle Wade	Breast Imaging Department, Worcestershire Breast Unit Worcestershire Royal Hospital Charles Hastings Way Worcester WR5 1DD
	Briony Edwards	
	Judith Sutton-Smith	
	Julie Broomer	
Radiation Protection Advisor	Integrated Radiological Services (IRS) Ltd Unit 188, Century Building Tower Street, Liverpool. L3 4BJ Phone: 0151 709 6296 www.irs-limited.com	

Full set of local rules is available on the WAHT intranet Breast Imaging key document page