

Title of Document:	IR(ME)R Procedure (I) Providing that wherever practicable, and prior to an exposure taking place, the individual to be exposed or their representative is provided with adequate information relating to the benefits and risks associated with the radiation dose from the exposure
Directorate:	RADIOLOGY DIRECTORATE

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Patient information update.	
Individuals involved in developing / reviewing / amending this document: (titles only)	
Chair of the Radiation Protection Committee	24.03.2025
WAHT Radiation Protection Advisor	03.05.2024
Radiation Protection Supervisor	30.04.2025
Key staff responsibilities	Post:
Responsible for the content of this procedure and for making the necessary information available to referrers, practitioners and operators.	Worcestershire Acute NHS Trust
Wherever practicable and dependent on the imaging procedure or exposure to be delivered, are responsible for ensuring that the necessary information has been communicated to the individual or their representative prior to the exposure taking place.	Referrers/Practitioners/ Operators

In-line with regulation 6 schedule 2 requirements within IR(ME)R (amended 2024) Regulations, the purpose of this procedure is to ensure that individuals to be exposed or their representatives are made aware of the benefits and risks of a medical exposure prior to it taking place.

The procedure applies to any exposure to ionising radiation for the purposes of the activities defined by Regulation 3 of IR(ME)R (Amended 2024) Regulations and will act as a guide for radiology staff.

PRACTICE:

To ensure patients are provided with adequate information prior to their exposure to ionising radiation.

Any exposure to radiation can only be justified if it would have a sufficient net benefit to the patient.

The risks and benefits of having a radiation exposure should always be discussed with the patient by the Referrer prior to submitting a referral for Imaging. Operators and Practitioners will also be able to provide information on the risk and benefit of having x-rays to the patient or their representative or carer. Radiographers receive training on risk and benefit as part of their initial qualification. Radiation Protection CPD is also available to staff (**Appendix A**)

If the patient does not feel they have been given sufficient information or have further queries relating to their examination, they may refuse to have their examination and go back to discuss this with their Healthcare Professional who has referred them.

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 to one of three levels of risk (Low, Medium, Moderate) corresponding to the level of risk associated with the exposure.

Low risk - procedures include, general radiography involving individual radiographs, low dose fluoroscopy procedures, dental radiography and bone densitometry.

- ➔ Relevant information will be delivered in the form of an information leaflet which will be available for patients to read (**Appendix B**).

Medium risk - procedures include high dose non-interventional fluoroscopy, low dose computed tomography (CT) and diagnostic nuclear medicine procedures.

- ➔ Relevant information will be delivered in the form of an information leaflet which will be available for patients to read (**Appendix B**).
- ➔ Where attendance for the procedure is arranged via an appointment letter then relevant information will be included in the appointment letter.

Moderate risk - procedures include high dose interventional radiology, Cardiology, high dose CT procedures (including hybrid imaging) and standardised therapeutic nuclear medicine procedures.

- ➔ Relevant information will be verbally communicated to the individual to be exposed, or their representative at the time of examination or consent. The procedures benefits and risks associated with the radiation dose shall be discussed.
- ➔ High dose exams are alerted to referrers on ICE and will also be included in the appointment letter.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Emergency trauma unconscious patients – No information provided

Paediatric patients – Information provided to parent/guardian

Patient lacking capacity – Information provided to representative

Patient with sensory impairment – Additional tools (i.e Interpreter/information in another format)

Communication in alternative language - Additional tools (ie. Interpreter/information in another language)

Appendix A: Radiation Protection CPD

<M:\Acute\Radiology\Radiology Team Share Point\CPD\E-learning activities for CPD\RADIATION PROTECTION CPD.pptx>

Appendix B: Patient Information Leaflet - Your Radiology Examination and You

worcsacute.nhs.uk/documents/documents/patient-information-leaflets-a-z/your-radiology-examination-and-you/