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Individuals involved in developing / reviewing / amending this document: (titles only)	
Nuclear Medicine Lead	
Radiation Protection Advisor	
Key staff responsibilities	Post:
Ensure procedure is followed	Radiology Clinical Services Manager
Responsible for the day to day implementation of the procedure	Lead Superintendent Radiographers
Adhere to SOP	Nuclear Medicine Radiographers

INTRODUCTION-SCOPE AND GENERAL CRITERIA

These imaging protocols are designed to ensure compliance with the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017, IR(ME)R 2017, with respect to the JUSTIFICATION and AUTHORISATION of requests for diagnostic Nuclear Medicine examinations.

JUSTIFICATION AND AUTHORISTION

Only ARSAC licence/certificate holding Radiologists can act as Practitioners under IR(ME)R 2017. They may JUSTIFY examinations provided that the radiopharmaceutical to be used is listed on the schedule of their current ARSAC licence/certificate.

Other operators may AUTHORISE an examination if the clinical information with the request satisfies one of the justification criteria laid out in the relevant imaging

protocol (the vetting SOW) produced by an IRMER practitioner. The operators permitted to do this are:-

1. Consultant Radiologists.
2. Radiographers with a diploma/post graduate diploma in Nuclear Medicine/Radionuclide Imaging.
3. Band 6/ Band 7 Radiographers with in house training in Nuclear Medicine and written authorisation to administer radiopharmaceuticals to patients.

ELECTRONIC JUSTIFICATION AND AUTHORISATION

Requests are electronically vetted on the "CRIS" Radiology information system. There is currently no entry field on this system to indicate "authorisation" of an examination by an operator. There is only a Practitioner field. **Therefore, when a Nuclear Medicine IR(ME)R2017 operator vets and accepts a request using this system, the Radiology Directorate accepts that, for the purposes of compliance with IR(ME)R 2017, they are electronically "authorising" the request as per the justification criteria agreed by the Practitioner(s).**

EXAMINATION PROTOCOLS

Can be found at:
M:\Acute\Radiology\Radiology Team Share Point\EXAM PROTOCOLS\NM PROTOCOLS

ADMINISTRATION OF RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS

The administration of radiopharmaceuticals to patients is covered by a protocol approved and signed by the ARSAC licence/certificate holder(s). Operators are issued with a written authorisation to administer radiopharmaceuticals, signed by the relevant ARSAC licence/certificate holder(s), after training supervised by the Nuclear Medicine Lead Radiographer.

This protocol can be found at:
M:\Acute\Radiology\Radiology Team Share Point\SOWs\NM\SOW ADMIN OF RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS.pdf

PREGNANT PATIENTS

Where the request is for Lung V/Q or Perfusion imaging for suspected pulmonary embolism then the examination may be justified by an operator if the clinical information with the request satisfies one of the justification criteria laid out in the relevant imaging protocol (the vetting SOW).
All other examinations for pregnant patients must be justified by an ARSAC licence/certificate holder.

BREAST FEEDING PATIENTS

These patients may need to stop breastfeeding for a period following administration of the radiopharmaceutical. Consult the current ARSAC guidance notes for the specific radiopharmaceutical but note it is considered good practice to stop a least one feed after administration.

PAEDIATRIC REQUESTS

For DMSA paediatric scans the examination may be authorised by an operator if the clinical information with the request satisfies one of the justification criteria laid out in the relevant imaging protocol (the vetting SOW).
For all other paediatric examinations, where the patient is under 16 years of age, the examination must be authorised by a Consultant Radiologist or Justified by an ARSAC certificate holder.

REPORTING OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE EXAMINATIONS

These are reported by ARSAC licence/certificate holders, Radiologists authorised by an ARSAC licence/certificate holder and Band 7 Radiographers qualified to report an agreed range of examinations according to an approved protocol for the Trust.