CONTROLLED DOCUMENT

University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017

Procedure 12: Provision of information relating to the benefits and risks associated with the radiation dose from the exposure

Required under IR(ME)R 2017 Regulation 6 & Schedule 2 (i)

CATEGORY:	Procedure
CLASSIFICATION:	Health & Safety, Clinical Governance
PURPOSE:	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.
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Controlled Document Sponsor:	Chief Operating Officer
Controlled Document Lead:	Chair of the Radiation Safety Board
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Distribution: • **Essential Reading for:**	Staff who are designated as an IR(ME)R duty holder, defined as referrer, practitioner

• **Information for:**	and/or operator. Staff in training to become an IR(ME)R duty holder Managers of IR(ME)R duty holders General managers of departments and areas performing procedures involving ionising radiation All staff working in departments that refer for or perform procedures involving ionising radiation.

Contents

1 Procedure Statement

1.1 The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that, wherever practicable, the individual to be exposed or their representative is provided with information to relating to the benefits and risks associated with the radiation dose from the exposure prior to the exposure taking place.

2 Scope

2.1 All medical exposures (excluding those to carers and comforters) and non-medical imaging exposures carried out by the Trust.

2.2 Arrangements for establishing dose constraints and guidance to carers and comforters are given in IR(ME)R Employer's Procedure 14.

3 Responsibility

3.1 The relevant General Managers are responsible for ensuring that generic risk information on dose and risk is available via posters and on appointment letters where applicable.

3.2 All duty holders have a responsibility to discuss with the individual to be exposed the benefit and risks of all exposures prior to exposure where practicable. This may be delivered at time of referral, consent, or arrival in the department.

3.3 Whenever there is a risk of deterministic skin injury from an x-ray exposure (e.g. cardiology, neuroradiology and vascular interventional procedures), the IR(ME)R practitioner or authorised delegated clinician is responsible for discussing this with the individual to be exposed as part of the consent process.

3.4 The IR(ME)R license holder (ARSAC) is responsible for discussing the benefit and risks associated with a radionuclide therapy as part of the consent process. This can be delegated to another suitable doctor e.g. Oncology Consultant or SpR or Interventional Radiologist for SIRT familiar with the therapy. A Clinical Scientist, Clinical Technologist or Registered Nurse who is involved with administering the therapy or in arrangements for discharging the patient can advise the patient on radiation doses and possible side effects.

3.5 In Radiotherapy, the referrer/practitioner has the responsibility to explain to the individual to be exposed, the treatment options and the potential benefits and risks involved at the time of consent. In addition to ensure the patient is provided with available information relating to the disease, treatment and side effects

3.6 The task of ensuring that relevant local information concerning dose and risk is displayed in patient waiting areas is delegated to the relevant Managers.

4 Practice: Imaging and Interventional Procedures

4.1 Suitable posters, giving basic risk information will be displayed in appropriate imaging areas. Posters are available from;

https://www.rcr.ac.uk/clinical-radiology/service-delivery/clinical-imaging-board/clinical-imaging-board-projects

4.2 For all procedures for which an appointment letter/ leaflet is sent, a statement may be included if appropriate, providing more information concerning the risk / benefits.

4.3 For Higher skin dose procedures; advice will be given directly to the individual to be exposed or their representative by the Referrer or IR(ME)R Practitioner as part of the consent process. This responsibility can be delegated to an authorised person.

5 Practice: Radionuclide Therapy Procedures

5.1 Advice will be given directly to the individual to be exposed or their representative by the IR(ME)R practitioner/ IR(ME)R license holder (ARSAC) holder as part of the consent process. This responsibility can be delegated to an authorised person.

5.2 The Clinical Scientist, Clinical Technologist or other person making the booking will provide the patient with an information leaflet including a brief description of the benefit and risk.

6 Practice: Radiotherapy Procedures including Brachytherapy

6.1 Advice will be given directly to the individual to be exposed or their representative by the IR(ME)R referrer/ practitioner/ IR(ME)R license holder (ARSAC) as part of the consent process. This may include Consultant Clinical staff / Specialist Registrar / Associate Specialist / Staff Grade/ Consultant radiographers or trainees under supervision

7 Practice: Research

7.1 Risks and benefits of the radiation dose must be explained in the participant information sheet and this will be confirmed as being adequate according to IR(ME)R Employer's Procedure 8.

8 Contingencies

8.1 Any failure in compliance with this procedure must be reported to the relevant Divisional General Managers or Medical Physics Expert in their absence. Failure to comply with the above procedure may result in the Trust's Disciplinary Policy being invoked.