

# CONTROLLED DOCUMENT

## Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017

### Procedure 3: Non-Medical Imaging Exposures

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

|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----|
| Type of Document                                          | Procedure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                |     |
| Purpose of Document                                       | To set out the Procedure to be observed in the case of non-medical imaging exposures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |     |
| Controlled Document Number                                | IMG003                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Version Number | 3.0 |
| Document Sponsor                                          | Chair of the Radiation Safety Board                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                |     |
| Document Lead                                             | Head of RRPPS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                |     |
| Date Approved                                             | 28/06/2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |     |
| Review Date                                               | 28/06/2029                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |     |
| This Procedure is essential reading for:                  | Staff who are designated as an IR(ME)R duty holder, defined as Referrer, Practitioner and/or Operator.<br><br>Staff in training to become an IR(ME)R duty holder<br><br>Managers of IR(ME)R duty holders<br><br>General managers of departments and areas that perform procedures involving ionising radiation. |                |     |
| For Information for                                       | All staff working in departments that refer for or perform procedures involving ionising radiation.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                |     |
| What has changed since the last version of this document? | Previous version updated to include Amendment Regulations 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                |     |

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## Version History

| Version | Title                                      | Issue Date |
|---------|--------------------------------------------|------------|
| 3.0     | Procedure 3: Non-Medical Imaging Exposures | 05/08/2026 |
| 2.0     | Procedure 3: Non-Medical Imaging Exposures | 08/02/2023 |

## **1. Procedure Statement**

- 1.1. The purpose of this procedure is to identify special arrangements when carrying out non-medical imaging using medical equipment

## **2. Scope**

- 2.1. All non-medical imaging exposures carried out by UHB trust.
- 2.2. Non-medical imaging exposures are any radiation exposures of humans for imaging purposes where the primary intention of the exposure is not to bring a direct health benefit to the individual being exposed. Examples of non-medical imaging include:
  - Radiological health assessment for employment, immigration and insurance purposes,
  - Sports Medicine (e.g. radiological evaluation of the physical development of children and adolescents for careers in sport, dancing etc.)
  - Radiological age assessment
  - Identification of concealed objects within the body
  - Suspected physical abuse of children
  - Exposures undertaken as part of a research trial are described in IR(ME)R Employer's Procedure 8. [irmerprocedure8.pdf](#)

## **3. Responsibility**

- 3.1. It is the responsibility of the Referrer to make it clear on the request that the exposure is required for non-medical imaging reasons.
- 3.2. It is the responsibility of the Practitioner to justify all non-medical imaging exposures.

## **4. Practice: General**

- 4.1. Whenever practical, the individual to be exposed will have been provided with adequate information relating to the benefits and risks associated with the radiation dose from the exposure prior to the exposure taking place (see IR(ME)R Employer's Procedure 12 [irmerprocedure12.pdf](#).)
- 4.2. Referrals will only be accepted by registered healthcare staff; further details relating to this are outlined in IRMER Procedure 2. [irmerprocedure2.pdf](#)

- 4.3. There must be sufficient information from the Referrer to allow justification. The purpose of the procedure must be clearly indicated on the request thus indicating that it is a non-medical imaging procedure.
- 4.4. No non-medical imaging exposure should be performed unless it can be justified. As non-medical imaging exposures are taken without a medical indication, the benefit to the individual exposed will be non-medical and might be for society as a whole rather than the individual.
- 4.5. All Referrals for non medical procedures must be justified and authorised by an IR(ME)R Practitioner as identified in IR(ME)R Employer's Procedure 2.
- 4.6. Referrals for non-medical nuclear medicine procedures must be justified and authorised by an IR(ME)R licence holder (ARSAC).
- 4.7. If the exposure is for a child or a pregnant or breastfeeding person, then further specific information may be required from the referrer prior to justification.
- 4.8. The procedure should only be justified if it is not readily possible to use alternative techniques involving no or less exposure to ionising radiation.
- 4.9. Checks should be made to determine if this exposure has already been performed during the routine management of the individual, to avoid unnecessary repeat exposures.
- 4.10. Once justified and authorised, non-medical imaging exposures should be performed whilst taking care to keep doses as low as reasonably practicable, with reference to the local and/or national diagnostic reference level (DRL) if available. The exposure settings or administered activity and radiopharmaceutical should be noted for the calculation of effective dose, and making a clinical evaluation of the outcome of the exposure.
- 4.11. A written protocol for each type of standard non-medical imaging exposure must be in place.
- 4.12. A note must be made on the radiology information system that the exposure was for non-medical imaging.

## **5. Practice: Third Party Non-Medical Imaging Requests**

- 5.1. Referrals can only be accepted by registered healthcare professionals.
- 5.2. Where a request is received from any other person, for example a lawyer or immigration officer, they must include sufficient clinical details to allow an IRMER Referrer to then make the referral.

## 6. Contingencies

- 6.1. Any failure in compliance with this procedure must be reported to the relevant Departmental/Service manager. Failure to comply with the above procedure may result in the Trust's Disciplinary Procedure being invoked.

## 7. References

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <p>The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017<br/><i>UK SI 2017 No.1322</i><br/>including Amendment Regulations 2024<br/><a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1322/contents">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1322/contents</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>IR(ME)R: Implications for clinical practice in diagnostic imaging, interventional radiology and diagnostic nuclear medicine<br/><i>The Royal College of Radiologists 2020</i><br/><a href="https://www.rcr.ac.uk/our-services/all-our-publications/clinical-radiology-publications/ir-me-r-implications-for-clinical-practice-in-diagnostic-imaging-interventional-radiology-and-diagnostic-nuclear-medicine/">https://www.rcr.ac.uk/our-services/all-our-publications/clinical-radiology-publications/ir-me-r-implications-for-clinical-practice-in-diagnostic-imaging-interventional-radiology-and-diagnostic-nuclear-medicine/</a></p> |
| <p>Guidance for the implementation of the IR(ME)R Regulations 2017<br/><i>NHS England 2024</i><br/><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/breast-screening-guidance-on-implementation-of-ionising-radiation-medical-exposure-regulations-2017/guidance-for-the-implementation-of-the-irmer-regulations-2017">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/breast-screening-guidance-on-implementation-of-ionising-radiation-medical-exposure-regulations-2017/guidance-for-the-implementation-of-the-irmer-regulations-2017</a></p>                                                                                               |
| <p>Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations: Implications for clinical practice in radiotherapy – Guidance from the Radiotherapy Board<br/><i>Public Health England 2020</i><br/><a href="https://www.rcr.ac.uk/media/smmkkras/ionising-radiation-medical-exposure-regulations-implications-for-clinical-practice-in-radiotherapy.pdf">https://www.rcr.ac.uk/media/smmkkras/ionising-radiation-medical-exposure-regulations-implications-for-clinical-practice-in-radiotherapy.pdf</a></p>                                                                                                                                          |