

**RADIATION PROTECTION
POLICY AND PROCEDURES
NUMBER : HEYH01**

Hull & East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

REFERRERS, PRACTITIONERS & OPERATORS

Procedure to Identify Individuals Entitled to Act as Referrer, Practitioner or Operator

- DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES¹ -

(i) REFERRERS - Medically Qualified

Clinically justified referrals for diagnostic procedures using ionising radiation will be accepted from registered medical and dental practitioners. Referrals will also be accepted from provisionally registered practitioners working under the direct supervision of a fully registered colleague.

It is not feasible for the Trust to maintain up to date lists of all medical practitioners in hospitals and general practice. All requests arising from such will be assumed to originate with a qualified medical or dental practitioner and to be signed by the responsible clinician. The Trust will, as far as is possible, make it clear to referrers that these are the expectations and any departure from these will be a violation of the Regulations².

With the introduction of *order coms*, the person requesting the examination will have been delegated a password to enable them to request. This will have been post verification by the Department performing the medical exposure and subject to the referrer working to set referral protocols. This system will be reviewed yearly.

(ii) REFERRERS - Non-medically Qualified

Non medical staff may only take on the role of referrer following completion of the appropriate training and with agreement of referral protocols with the Department performing the medical exposure and Trust management, Lists of non-medical staff authorised to refer should be held in the relevant department and updated as changes occur.

¹ Including interventional radiology

² Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposures) Regulations 2000 (IRMER)

(iii) PRACTITIONERS

This is inclusive of all grades of Radiologist within their area of expertise. Other appropriately qualified and trained members of staff may act as practitioners as agreed by the Department performing the medical exposure, in discussion with the Clinical Lead and within a defined range of procedures.

If any doubt exists as to roles / responsibilities and the patient would be put at risk if the procedure did not continue, then the examination should be performed. All details must be recorded and the situation reviewed / assessed to avoid a future reoccurrence.

(iv) OPERATORS

e.g. radiologists, radiographers, appropriately supervised trainees/students, medical physicists, medical technologists, dark room technicians, and X-ray engineers.

Individuals will only be allowed to act as operators in those areas for which they have received appropriate training.

Occasionally, staff with no radiological background may need to act as operators, e.g. clinicians performing clinical procedures under fluoroscopic guidance. Such staff will be required to undergo such training as agreed by the appropriate professional organisation and Royal Colleges. The number of persons requiring such training, should be kept to a minimum by ensuring that, whenever possible a qualified radiographer acts as operator.

- THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES -

(v) REFERRERS - Medically Qualified

As for diagnostic procedures.

(vi) REFERRERS - Non-medically Qualified

This category is inappropriate for radiotherapy.

(iv) OPERATORS

e.g. radiotherapists, radiographers, appropriately supervised trainees/students, medical physicists, medical technologists, oncology nurses, and X-ray engineers.

Individuals will only be allowed to act as operators in those areas for which they have received appropriate training.
