

**RADIATION PROTECTION PROCEDURE  
NUMBER : 25**

**MEDICAL EXPOSURES - BIOMEDICAL AND MEDICAL RESEARCH**

**Introduction to IRMER and Research**

The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2000 ("IRMER") require the following with regard to medical research involving the exposure of patients to radiation.

- they must be approved by the local Ethics Committee
- individuals must be volunteers, and informed in advance about the risks of exposure
- where there is no medical benefit to the individual being exposed (i.e. healthy volunteer), the Trust must set DOSE CONSTRAINTS, which may not be exceeded
- where there is some benefit to the patient, INDIVIDUAL TARGET LEVELS OF DOSE must be set, to ensure that the benefits outweigh the detriment, and excessive doses are avoided. These levels can be exceeded in exceptional circumstances where this is to the patients benefit.

**Guidance**

COREC published guidance in December 2006 on procedures for planning, review and authorisation of all medical and biomedical research involving any use of ionising radiation.

**Local Procedure**

- IRMER requirements must be followed
- To achieve this the COREC guidance should be followed
- The Trust's Radiation Protection Adviser<sup>1</sup> should be contacted for advice, and may act as Medical Physics Expert, or may recommend another physicist for this role.

**Reference**

Approval for research involving ionising radiation, version 1 1/12/06, COREC & NHS R&D Forum [<http://www.rdforum.nhs.uk/docs/radiationguidance.pdf>]

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