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IR(ME)R Employers Procedures Dentistry

January 2024



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| EP13 Radiology Audit | [Name of NHS Dental Practice/Independent Clinic] |

The Employer is responsible for ensuring that regular audits are undertaken to ensure that Employer’s Procedures are being complied with by duty holders. Audits should include:

* Records of quality assurance testing equipment
* Displaying/sharing of risk benefit information
* Training records and entitlements are up to date and correct for all duty holders
* The referral process, including quality of information provided, and
* Records of clinical evaluation.

Mechanisms should be in place to ensure audit results are shared, and that action plans are developed and implemented to drive improvement.

### Images

Reviews of dental images should be undertaken to grade image quality. The two-point quality rating scale should be used which is recommended for all forms of dental radiography and CBCT imaging.

Images are either rated as 'diagnostically acceptable' ['A'] or 'not acceptable' ['N']. For digital imaging, no less than 95% should be categorised as 'A', and 5% as 'N'. For film imaging, targets are 90% and 10% respectively.

When an image is rated as unacceptable, a record should be made of the nature of the deficiency, the suspected cause and the number of images taken, and remedial actions implemented as appropriate.

Further information from the FGDP can be found on their website <https://www.fgdp.org.uk/publication/guidance-notes-dental-practitioners-safe-use-x-ray-equipment>.

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| EP14 Research Exposures | [Name of NHS Dental Practice/Independent Clinic] |

If you **DO NOT** conduct research, this EP can simply state:

No research exposures are currently undertaken at [insert practice/Clinic name]

If you **DO** conduct research then please adapt the following EP:

### The Employer’s Responsibility

The Employer must ensure that all research has received approval from an ethics committee and that every request is authorised, and a clinical evaluation performed.

### The Research Practitioner

A protocol for each research project will be written by the research Practitioner and made available to all Operators in the *[research folder/electronically]*. The Practitioner must also determine that there is sufficient net benefit to allow research exposures to go ahead.

All potential participants must receive a written explanation of the research programme, its risks and have the opportunity to discuss these with a responsible person before agreeing to take part. The explanation must make it clear that treatment will not be prejudiced by failure to take part. Each participant will sign a statement indicating that the whole procedure has been properly explained, that they are voluntarily undertaking the procedure and are aware of the risks including those from the radiation exposure.

It is the responsibility of the individual Practitioner for each research study to ensure that every request is justified.

### Referrals

The Referrer must indicate in the patient’s [*dental record/electronic record]* that the request is for a research exposure.

### The Medical Physics Expert (MPE)

The MPE will be involved with the dose and risk assessment, as agreed within their contract, and will identify a dose constraint, when no direct medical benefit is expected to the individual from the exposure.

### The Operator

Operators must follow the research protocol specifically developed for the research study. They must ensure that the dose constraint set by the MPE is adhered to. They must report to *[insert* *named person/their line manager]* any instances where exposures are being made for research purposes, where this has not been clearly indicated on the request. The clinical evaluation must be performed by an appropriately entitled Operator and reported through appropriate communication arrangements.

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| EP15 Non-Medical Imaging | [Name of NHS Dental Practice/Independent Clinic] |

If you **DO NOT** conduct non-medical imaging – this EP can simply state:

Non-medical imaging will not be undertaken unless identified in this EP.

If you **DO** conduct non-medical imaging, then please adapt the following EP:

Non-medical imaging refers to exposures undertaken deliberately for purposes other than to bring a health benefit. In [insert *NHS Dental Practice/Independent Clinic name]* non-medical imaging is undertaken for:

**Adapt and supplement the following examples as appropriate:**

* Dental radiographs for employment purposes, such as for military personnel/flight crew or deep-sea divers
* Radiological imaging for insurance or legal purposes
* Radiological age assessment
* Identification of drugs or other evidence that may be concealed within a dental cavity.

Referrals for non-medical imaging exposures must be clearly identified and must be justified by a Practitioner. The dental radiographic history of each patient attending for non-medical imaging exposures should be checked by the Practitioner and recent similar examinations should be taken into account. For instance, it may not be necessary to complete a whole series of radiographs if some have been taken recently.