Insert practice logo here

IR(ME)R Employers Procedures Dentistry

January 2024



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| EP16 Exposure of Carers and Comforters | [Name of NHS Dental Practice/Independent Clinic] |

Carers and comforters should only provide support where the patient is unable to keep the image receptor still, or where the patient requires reassurance during a radiograph.

Where any consideration is given to the usage of a carer or comforter to support a patient the default position should be to give due consideration as to where best this patients care is to be delivered. If onward referral is required, dialogue should precede any images being taken. Consult with the team you are to refer to, as they may be better placed to generate images. The best patient outcomes should underpin these discussions.

Carers and comforters must have the risks and benefits of being present during the exposure to radiation fully explained to them before the exposure is taken. For example, see [EP17](#_EP17_Provision_of).

The Practitioner must authorise the exposure and document in the [*dental record/electronic record]* that a carer or comforter has been involved in the exposure.

### Dose

Where a carer or comforter remains in the controlled area with the patient during dental radiography a dose constraint of [*amend according to the dose constraint recommended by your MPE*] to the carer/comforter per radiography session will be used. A session is defined as one visit to the practice and may involve up to two radiographs, one orthopantomogram (OPG) or one CBCT examination.

The Operator should ensure the dose to the carer or comforter is kept as low as reasonably practicable. As such, the following restrictions apply:

* If required, the film or digital detector should be held by using a pair of forceps to avoid direct irradiation of the fingers and should not be hand-held
* It should never be necessary for the carer and comforter to hold or support the x-ray tube
* The person providing support should be positioned so that they will not be in the direct beam and should ideally stand as far away from the patient and tube as possible, and
* Any one person should not regularly provide manual support.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| EP17 Provision of Information Relating to the Benefits and Risks of an Exposure | [Name of NHS Dental Practice/Independent Clinic] |

It is essential 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.

In *[insert name of NHS Dental Practice/Independent Clinic*] this is undertaken by

**[Include appropriate options]:**

*Displaying a benefit and risk poster in a location and of a size that is accessible to all patients. Operators will bring the poster to the attention of the patient and answer any associated questions. An example poster is included in* [*Appendix 8*](#_Appendix_8)*.*

*OR*

*Provided all patients with printed information and answering any associated questions.*

*OR*

*The Practitioner or Operator having an individual risk benefit discussion with every patient before an exposure.]*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| EP18 Equipment Inventory and Quality Assurance | [Name of NHS Dental Practice/Independent Clinic] |

### Equipment Inventory

An inventory of [*x-*ray/CT] equipment will be kept, including the type of machine, manufacturer, model and serial numbers, year of manufacture, year of installation, location and date of acceptance test. The inventory will be updated when new equipment is installed or removed.

### Quality Assurance

A Quality Assurance (QA) programme must be maintained to ensure that the equipment is fit for use and maintained effectively to provide optimum imaging. The MPE must be consulted on the contents of a QA programme - the manufacture may also be able to help. In *[insert name of practice/clinic] QA is conducted at the following frequencies:*

* *x-ray equipment - daily/weekly/monthly*
* *OPG equipment - daily/weekly/monthly*
* *CT scanner - daily/weekly/monthly*

A QA [routine testing and maintenance record] will be maintained, that records the type of test, date, the result of the test, whether the result was satisfactory, who carried out the testing and when the next test is due.

If the QA indicates a problem with the equipment then the test should be repeated. If this confirms an issue, then the [*Employer/MPE/manufacturer]* will be contacted and the equipment taken out of clinical use.

# Appendix 8

### EP17 this poster should be displayed in the waiting area. In size A3 or larger to ensure visibility.