



IR(ME)R 2024 Employers Procedures

DCHFT EP17 – Carrying out of clinical audit

Policy Title	IR(ME)R 2024 Employers Procedures - DCHFT EP17 – Carrying out of clinical audit		
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Aim of the Policy	Compliance with the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017 and amendment Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I 2024, No 896) - covers the arrangements for, management of, and guidance for the carrying out of clinical audit and appropriate action to be taken (in accordance with regulation 7)		
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IRMER^{[1][2]}, Regulation 6, Employer's Procedures, Schedule 2, 1.(o):

This Employer's Procedure covers the arrangements for, management of, and guidance for the carrying out of clinical audit and appropriate action to be taken (in accordance with regulation 7), as required under the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposures) Regulations 2017 (IRMER17) amended by the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (SI 2024, No 896) ^{[1][2]}.

Definition

The definition of clinical audit^[2] is stated as “....a systematic examination or review of medical radiological procedures which seeks to improve the quality and outcome of patient care through structured review, whereby medical radiological practices, procedures and results are examined against agreed standards for good medical radiological procedures, with modification of practices, where indicated, and the application of new standards if necessary”.

Introduction

IRMER^[2], Regulation 7, states that “The employer's procedures must include provision for the carrying out of clinical audit, and for the taking of any appropriate action in relation to the results of such audit, as appropriate.”

The guidance below has been taken from the Royal College of Radiologists publication ^[3].

Clinical Audit

The Employer should establish a clinical audit program to review and enhance healthcare outcomes, ensuring that patient care aligns with best practice standards. Whenever practice does not meet these standards, appropriate changes should be implemented, followed by re-audits to verify that the corrective actions have achieved the intended positive results.

General objectives of clinical audit include:

- Improvement in the quality of patient care
- Identification of areas for improvement
- Promoting the effective use of resources
- Enhancing the provision and organisation of clinical services
- Support professional education and training

Clinical audit will help identify:

- How well a department is performing against pre-defined standards or benchmarks
- Areas where performance or compliance is not meeting agreed standards and areas for improvement
- Compliance with existing evidence-based practice

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- Training requirements
- Areas where changes in practice are needed
- Where new standards or benchmarks are required.

Multidisciplinary team

The RCR^[3] recommends a multidisciplinary team approach in establishing and carrying out an audit program. Clinical audit should include a lead clinician, lead modality radiographer and the Medical Physics Expert (MPE).

Clinical Audit Results

A key part of a clinical audit is sharing the results. Results from a clinical audit should be shared with the Employer in the form of a report. This report should include basic information about the audit, audit results and the plan to implement change as required.

A review date or anticipated timeline of change should also be provided.

A second report on the progress of actions should be provided to the Employer at a suitable timeframe.

The RCR website provides useful links to resources for clinical audit including the HQIP^{[4][5]} “Best practice in clinical audit” and HQIP “Developing a Clinical Audit Programme”.

References

- [1] UK Government. The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017, No.1322, 2017
- [2] UK Government. The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) (Amendment) Regulations 2024, No.896, 2024
- [3] IRMER Implications for clinical practice in diagnostic imaging, interventional radiology and diagnostic nuclear medicine, Royal College of Radiologists, June 2020
- [4] <https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/best-practice-in-clinical-audit/> - accessed 15/05/2025
- [5] <https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/developing-a-clinical-audit-programme/> – accessed 15/05/2025

The IR(ME)R 2017 Employers Procedures – Carrying out of clinical audit will be brought to the attention of all IRMER Duty Holders and will be reviewed biennially by the Medical Exposures Group (MEG).

Signed:  _____ Date: 10/07/2025

Chair of the MEG, Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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