



## IR(ME)R 2017 Employers Procedures

### DCHFT EP2 IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS ENTITLED TO ACT AS A REFERRER

<b>Policy Title</b>	IR(ME)R 2017 Employers Procedures - DCHFT EP2 Identification of Individuals Entitled to Act as a Referrer		
<b>Policy Number</b>	<b>2132</b>	<b>Policy Version Number</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Applicable to</b>	All Trust staff		
<b>Aim of the Policy</b>	Compliance with the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017 - to correctly identify individuals entitled to act as a Referrer under IRMER.		
<b>Next Review Due Date</b>	<b>01 February 2026</b>		
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<b>Expert Group</b>	Trust Medical Exposures Group		
<b>Date Approved</b>	20 February 2024		
<b>Date First Published</b>	22 March 2022		
<b>Primary Specialty</b>	Trustwide; Medical Physics		

Document Version Management			
Version	Date	Reviewer	Description of Change(s)
1	Feb-2024	J Thurston	Change to responsibility for maintaining lists; changes to descriptions of staff groups allowed to refer.

## IR(ME)R 2017 Employers Procedures



### DCHFT EP2 - Identification of Individuals Entitled to Act as a Referrer

#### **IRMER17<sup>[1]</sup>, Schedule 2, Regulation 6, Employer's Procedures, 1.(b):**

The Employer's Procedures for exposures must include a procedure to correctly identify individuals entitled to act as a Referrer.

"Referrer" means a registered health care professional who is entitled in accordance with the employer's procedures to refer individuals to a practitioner for a medical exposure.

"Registered health care professional" means a person who is a member of a profession regulated by a body mentioned in section 25(3) of the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002.

#### **Introduction**

This procedure identifies the staff groups that the Medical Exposures Group (MEG) will accept as IR(ME)R Referrers, the level of training required, and their scope of practice to act as IR(ME)R Referrers.

#### **General Requirements**

- Only those members of staff identified by the MEG as Referrers may act as such.
- All registered medical practitioners employed by the Trust who have completed the medical induction training are recognised and authorised as Referrers.
- The MEG also recognises registered medical practitioners employed by local GPs and Dentists, other NHS Trusts and private healthcare providers.
- The MEG recognises non-medical registered healthcare professionals who have completed the Non-Medical Referrers' Training. The MEG will accept the completed Referrers' training record as proof of training. Non-Medical Referrers (NMR) are identified on the Trust's list of Referrers.
- Each department will maintain the list of Referrers, including names, professional registration details/number, and scope of authorisation to refer where appropriate.

#### **Radiological exposures**

The MEG will accept the following staff groups as Referrers for radiological exposures within the Trust:

- Registered medical practitioners employed by the Trust, including Radiologists.

Other healthcare professionals who are entitled to act as Referrers for specific radiological exposures are identified in the following sections.

*Planar Radiography (including Portables), Mammography and dental radiography*

- Local General Practitioners (GPs).
- Non-Medical Referrers – bound by a specific referring scope of authorisation / protocol.
- Dentists.
- Chiropractors / osteopaths - bound by a specific referring protocol.
- Ultrasound Radiologists and Radiographers requiring confirmation of wire position following ultrasound localisation, and ultrasound marker placements for chemotherapy regime follow-up.
- MRI radiographers – for imaging prior to an MRI scan (e.g. orbits for metal foreign bodies)
- Cardiology radiographers - for post-pacemaker chest x-rays

### *Fluoroscopy*

- Local General Practitioners (GPs).
- Speech Therapists
- Surgeons.

### *Research Exposures*

- The Principal Investigator, or
- Medically qualified staff appointed to the research project, or  
The research nurse appointed to the research project

### **Cardiology**

The MEG will accept the following staff groups as Referrers for cardiology catheter laboratory exposures:

- Consultants Cardiologists employed by the Trust.
- Nurse Specialists in cardiology who have successfully completed Non-Medical-Referrers' training, bound by a specific referring scope of authorisation / protocol which includes the discussion of all cases with a Cardiologist prior to referral

Only members of the Cardiology team can refer for cardiology procedures. All referrals for cardiac catheter and pacing procedures will be discussed with a Cardiology Consultant before the referral is sent to Cardiology therefore the list of referrers does not include junior doctors.

[1] The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017, IRMER17

***The IR(ME)R 2017 Employers Procedures – Identification of Individuals Entitled to Act as a Referrer, will be brought to the attention of all employees working with ionising radiation and will be reviewed biennially by the Medical Exposures Group (MEG).***

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 20.02.2024

**Chair of the MEG, Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**