

Use of Third Party Imaging Services – Information for Staff

Use of Third Party Imaging Services

A hospital may occasionally wish to use third party imaging services such as mobile CT scanners and cardiac catheterisation labs. The onus is on the hospital to ensure that such services are safe for their patients and in compliance with relevant radiation protection legislation.

The RPC provides a questionnaire to ensure compliance with IR(ME)R2017 and IRR17. This questionnaire should be completed in conjunction with the third-party provider. All issues identified should be resolved before patients are scanned for the first time.

Ionising Radiation Regulations 2017

A risk assessment and local rules should be provided for the facility. A radiation protection advisor and radiation protection supervisor should be designated for the facility. The hospital RPA may need to be consulted regarding the risk assessments and any restrictions on the placement of to a facility or access to that facility. Equipment maintenance should also be considered.

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017

The hospital and the third party need to agree on how they will comply to IR(ME)R to ensure that no aspect is overlooked. Examples of topics to be discussed include whose scanning protocols to use, who will be responsible for justification of imaging requests and whose IR(ME)R procedures to use.

As always, a quality assurance programme must be in place for all imaging equipment used. All operators must undergo documented equipment-specific training. The facility should comply with national diagnostic reference levels and it should be noted if local DRLs have been set. A procedure for reporting accidental or unintended exposures should also be agreed.

Further Information

We hope you find this information useful. If you would like any additional information, please contact the Radiological Protection Centre (details below).

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