

RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

To all GPs in The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital
NHS Trust catchment area

The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

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Ref: SR/pcr
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Dear Doctor

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2000 (IRMER 2000)

May I please take this opportunity to remind you that, under the above regulations, the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust is required to justify all medical exposures to Ionising Radiation before these examinations are undertaken. The Trust also needs to ensure that all radiology requests received from GP practices are signed by a medically qualified professional (the referrer).

GPs are kindly reminded, therefore, of their responsibility to ensure that all radiology requests are signed by medically qualified professionals, when referring patients to the Trust for x-ray examinations. Nursing staff are only able to request x-rays if they have had specific further training and accreditation (please see: Clinical imaging requests from non-medically qualified professionals at www.rcn.org.uk or www.rcr.ac.uk) In order for the Trust to comply with IRMER, any x-ray request not signed appropriately will unfortunately be returned to the practice for the correct signature. We are aware that a number of x-ray requests have been received in the Trust which have not been signed by a medically qualified professional and have had to be returned, causing unnecessary delay for your patients in accessing their diagnostic tests.

The regulations also state that referrers requesting x-ray examinations are responsible for:

- ◆ Providing relevant clinical data to enable the Trust to justify the medical exposure, paying particular attention to the accuracy of patient identification details.
- ◆ Ensuring that the requested procedure will have a bearing on patient management and has not already been performed in a clinically relevant time scale.
- ◆ Ensuring that the request form/card carries the referrer's legible name and signature (and bleep number where appropriate), and practice stamp, for the Trust's information.
- ◆ Ensuring that the x-ray request card is completed and signed by the referrer only (please, never sign a request in which the clinical details have been completed by someone else).
- ◆ Informing the relevant diagnostic or treatment service when a medical exposure is no longer required.
- ◆ Providing a written clinical evaluation of a medical exposure when one has not been provided by a Radiology Clinician, or to ensure that a Radiologist's report is obtained.

May we also draw your attention to the Royal College of Radiologists guidelines "Making the best use of a Department of Clinical Radiology" which is available online at: <http://mbur.nhs.uk> and is a very useful guide for referring clinicians.

Many thanks for your co-operation, and please do not hesitate to contact me on (01743) 261150 with any query.

Yours sincerely

S Robbins MRCP FRCR
Consultant Radiologist and Chairperson of the Radiation Protection Committee