

Duties of the Referrer Under IR(ME)R

The Imaging Department at the Wellington Hospital operates in accordance with the requirements of the **Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2000 (IR(ME)R)**. Therefore your attention is drawn to the following points.

Referrals:

- A request for a radiological investigation will be regarded as a request from a registered medical practitioner, dental practitioner or other health professional to the Imaging Department for an opinion to assist in the clinical management of a patient.
- Radiological investigations will only be undertaken upon receipt of a written request signed and dated by a registered medical practitioner or other health professional who has a referral agreement with the department
- Referrals, request form or headed letter, must precede or accompany the patient. Faxes are accepted. The request should be clear and legible.
- All requests must have adequate information to allow unique identification of the patient (usually name, d.o.b, and address),
- All requests must have adequate clinical information to justify the examination based on the Royal College of Radiologists' Guidelines – "*Making the best use of a Department of Clinical Radiology: Guidelines for Doctors*" [1]
- All requests must clearly state the modality required to undertake the examination.
- All requests must be marked with the referrers contact details.

Females of Childbearing age (12-55yrs):

- For X-ray examinations between the diaphragm and the knee, all requests must state the date of the first day of the patients last menstrual period.

Clinical Justification of Requests:

- Under the IR(ME)R regulations, all imaging requests must be justified by an imaging department practitioner to ensure that there is a net benefit, from the examination, to the patient. Therefore, any requests that are illegible, unsigned or lacking the required information will be returned.

[1] Available from The Royal College of Radiologists, 38 Portland St., London W1B 3JQ (www.rcr.ac.uk)