

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Issue Date: 12 October 2016

STATUS: ACTION

CATEGORY: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LETTER

Title: New Good Practice Report for CT Scanning and General X-ray

Date of Expiry / Review 6th February 2018

For Action by:
LHB/Trust CEOs,
LHB/Trust Directors of Therapies and Health
Science,
LHB/Trust Medical Directors,
LHB/Trust Heads of Radiology and Physics,
LHB/Trust Quality and Safety Leads

Action required by: 6th February 2018
See paragraph 7

Sender: Christine Morrell, Acting Chief Scientific Adviser (Health)

DHSS Welsh Government Contact(s) :

*(Christine Morrell, Primary Care Division, Directorate of Health Policy, Welsh Government, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ,
029 2082 5989)*

Enclosure(s): None

Y Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Prif Ymgynghorydd Gwyddonol (Lechyd)

Christine Morrell
Health & Social Services Group
Acting Chief Scientific Adviser (Health)



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date: 12th Oct 2016

Dear Colleague,

New Good Practice Report for CT Scanning and General X-ray

1. The UK Department of Health has recently published an expert working party report which can be found on the following web link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-the-review-of-radiation-dose-issues-from-ct-scans>

2. The report made a number of practical recommendations for radiology staff but we would like to particularly draw your attention to the last recommendation, which suggests:
3. *'The establishment of a multidisciplinary Imaging Optimisation Team (IOT) to consolidate expertise in order to consistently optimise all examinations using ionising radiation, including CT scans, for dose and image quality.'*
4. This recommendation also gives specific detail regarding the desired outcomes achievable by the IOT; it describes team member roles, team functions and patient safety objectives. A formalised and functioning IOT will ensure that other recommendations are adopted in order to address all patient radiation dose issues resulting from the use of CT and other x-ray examinations.
5. The IOT will benefit from NHS Senior Leader sponsorship. In some cases, there may be a need for radiological or referring physician practices to change. This will ensure a consistent approach to optimising CT and other x-ray examinations.
6. We would like to seek your assistance and strongly recommend that you:
 - Formalise and support the formation of an Image Optimisation Team as described above, within your Trust/Board,

- Fully resource this team,
 - Provide ongoing support for this important patient safety function and;
 - Communicate with your appointed Medical Physics Expert and Radiation Protection Adviser concerning the formation and support of the Image Optimisation Team.
7. The requirements of the new Basic Safety Standard Directive (radiation protection) are currently being transposed into UK law. The new Directive will come into effect on 6th February 2018. The patient safety outcomes achieved by the IOT will help underpin compliance with the new Directive.
 8. This topic will be covered at forthcoming radiology professional meetings whereby your staff can gain further help and advice.
 9. We would like to thank you in anticipation of your help with this initiative.

Yours sincerely



CHRISTINE MORRELL

Interim Chief Scientific Adviser (Health)

Cc