



All dentists in Wales

12 January 2018

Dear Colleagues,

NEW REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF IONISING RADIATION

As you will be aware, The Ionising Radiation Regulations 2017 (IRR17) have taken effect from 1 January 2018 and the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017 (IRMER17) on 6 February 2018.

- Under IRR17 dental practices will be required to register with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) via an electronic system. This applies even if the practice is already registered with the HSE:
 - There is a £25 registration fee;
 - As part of the registration process, information will be submitted in 8-10 questions to establish compliance with IRR17;
 - Registration time period is between 3 January 2018 and 6 February 2018;
 - Only one registration is required per health board for their CDS or HDS dental surgeries, corporate body or multiple practices owned by one dentist.

- Under IRMER17:
 - Dental practices will need to appoint a Medical Physics Expert (MPE) which will normally be combined with the role of Radiation Protection Advisor (RPA);
 - New procedures will be required relating to justification of exposures to 'carers and comforters';

- Dental practices will need to develop procedures and processes to provide information to patients, parents and carers on the benefits and risks associated with the dose from a medical exposure.

Dental practices can contact their RPA for further information and advice on the new Regulations. You can read additional information on the HSE web site at this link:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/ionising/notification.htm>

You can apply to notify, register or get consent at this link:

<https://services.hse.gov.uk/bssd/>

You will find it helpful to use the Dental Deanery **Q I Tool for Ionising Radiation** to ensure your practice is up to date with current guidance and Regulations. It has been updated to reflect the changes noted above and is available at this link:

<https://dental.walesdeanery.org/quality-improvement/qi-tool-ionising-radiation>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colette Bridgman', written in a cursive style.

Colette Bridgman
Prif Swyddog Deintyddol
Chief Dental Officer