

SPECIMEN IR(ME)R 2000 PROCEDURE

PROCEDURE FOR USING DIAGNOSTIC REFERENCE LEVELS (IR00SC7a)

APPROVED BY: _____ REVISION : 0 DATE EFFECTIVE : OCTOBER 2000

Employer:NHS Trust

Establishment:Hospital/Clinic

Department:.....

Purpose

To identify and review patient doses that exceed the locally set diagnostic reference levels (DRLs) and to take corrective action.

Scope

Radiological examinations with locally or nationally established DRLs.

Responsibility

Operators performing medical exposures must report examinations which exceed the locally set DRLs

RPS/MPE together with operators must investigate excessive doses and implement corrective action

The employer must ensure that:

A record of locally set DRLs are recorded in examination protocols or room exposure charts using an appropriate quantity which can be used to calculate patient dose.

A record or log of cases where DRLs exceeded is kept up to date

A record of regular patient dose assessment is kept

Procedure

1. The departmental protocols must indicate all procedures undertaken and that radiological examinations and equipment will be assessed by regular dose assessments together with a comparison of typical dose values with the set DRLs.
2. Regular dose assessment must be performed according to the departmental QA programme.
3. The Directorate Manager must arrange for regular review the of DRL log. If a significant number of cases are recorded in the log as exceeding the set DRL's, (e.g. 10% of workload for a specific examination), the Directorate Manager, and RPS, in collaboration with the RPA/Medical Physics Expert, must investigate the causes for the excess doses, and make recommendations in relation to corrective action.
4. If regular dose assessment indicates that doses exceed DRLs, these should also be investigated by the Directorate Manager and RPS in collaboration with the RPA/Medical Physics Expert.
5. Recommendations for ensuring that DRL's do not continue to be exceeded should be documented and incorporated into working procedures, once verified by patient dose assessment.

