

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	IRMER Employer's Procedure EP1	Version 2.0
<i>Referrals from Non-Medically Qualified Health Professionals</i>	Author: Peter Marsden	<i>Sept 2010</i>
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Referrals from Non-Medically Qualified Health Professionals

1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that all persons making referrals for medical exposures are entitled to do so by the Trust.

2. Readership

This procedure should be read by all operators who are effecting exposures, practitioners and clinical directors within the Trust

3. Description

The Trust considers a referral for an investigation to be a request for a clinical opinion. Under normal circumstances this request will originate from a medical or dental practitioner. However, in certain cases it may be in the best interests of the patient to accept referrals from non-medically qualified health professionals. In order to maintain standards of radiation protection by minimising the dose to the patient, and to eliminate unnecessary referrals as far as possible, the Trust has adopted the following procedure.

4. Procedure

Requests for investigations by non-medically qualified health professionals will not be accepted without prior approval on behalf of the Trust, which will be given in writing and signed by the IRMER Lead Radiologist.

Applications for approval must be made by submitting a completed Requesting Rights Request Form according to the process laid out in the 'Non-Medical Referrers Radiological Examinations Policy' and must include justification in terms of patient benefit.

Each application will be considered individually by the IRMER Lead Radiologist.

Approval, if granted, will be subject to restrictions on the nature of the investigation which can be requested. The professionals approved for such referrals must be named and a sample of their signature provided. All named persons will be expected to undergo appropriate training as defined in the 'Non-Medical Referrers Radiological Examinations Policy' and agreed by the IRMER Lead Radiologist in consultation with the Radiation Protection Adviser.

Approval will be conditional on the satisfactory outcome of a regular audit of the agreed referral procedure and its outcomes. The IRMER Lead Radiologist will specify the nature of the audit and the department making the referrals is required to cooperate fully with the audit.

Any proposal to change either the restrictions placed on the approval or the named professionals involved will be assessed as though it were a new application.

The decision to proceed with any investigation is a clinical decision made by the practitioner. An agreement to receive requests has no bearing on this decision.

Should a referral be received from a non-medically qualified professional who is not recognised as participating in an agreement described above, the practitioner or operator authorising the exposure should not accept the request. In this case the request should be returned to the originator for endorsement by an entitled referrer.