

# Oryon Imaging and Healthcare Ltd

## Imaging Referral Guidelines

The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017 (IR(ME)R) and the MHRA outlines specific measures to organisations and individuals involved in procedures that utilise ionising radiation and non-ionising radiation. Oryon Imaging is committed to ensuring that all parties involved fully understand their roles and the implications of these regulations.

IR(ME)R 2017 establishes essential methods to protect patients from unnecessary or excessive exposure to X-rays during diagnostic procedures. It provides specific guidance for Employers, Practitioners, Operators, and Referrers in fulfilling their duties as duty holders.

Our aim is to support the safe and effective use of ionising radiation and non-ionising radiation in diagnostic imaging, ensuring the highest standards of care for our patients.

### **What are the requirements:**

Referrers are responsible for providing appropriate clinical information. Accurate clinical details are essential to ensure that the appropriate examination/protocol or imaging views are performed to address the clinical question. This information is critical for justifying the examination and is a legal requirement.

### **Ensure adequate information is provided to identify the correct and intended patient referred for imaging:**

Oryon Imaging conducts identification checks for each patient, with a minimum of 3 unique patient identifiers required (full name, date of birth, address, postcode, date of birth, mobile number) covering demographics and the requested examination. This information ensures the correct patient receives the correct examination, of the correct anatomical side where applicable, at the correct time with the aim of minimising patient identification errors. Completing the referral form with sufficient and accurate information enhances both the safety and efficiency of patient checks and the booking process.

### **Discuss with the patient or guardian about the examination requested:**

As the referrer, it is your responsibility to discuss the proposed examination with the patient or their guardian, and to consider the possibility of pregnancy for female patients of reproductive age. This is also required for patients who were registered female at birth.

### **Urgent/Critical Findings:**

Reviewed by E Ruthnam and G Sampson- Hudson

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As our operational hours extend beyond standard working times, urgent or critical findings may be identified and flagged at any point during our schedule. Occasionally, a reporting radiologist may detect abnormalities that, if not promptly addressed, could pose an immediate risk to the patient's health or lead to deterioration.

To ensure timely follow-up and safeguard patient care, we ask that all referring clinicians provide appropriate contact details such as a mobile number or an out-of-hours line so we can reach you directly should urgent findings arise.

**Oryon Imaging Clinic Operational Hours:**

Monday to Friday: 8:00 am – 11:00 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am – 10:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

**Referral Guidelines:**

The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) has published a set of clinical guidelines, available online at [www.irefer.org.uk](http://www.irefer.org.uk).

All referral forms must be signed and dated by the authorised referrer to ensure the requested imaging is medically appropriate and aligned with the clinical requirements of the patient. Failure to do so may result in a delay to the booking in process for your patient.

Oryon Imaging takes information and guidance from the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) and IR(ME)R 2017 to ensure we adopt recommended best practices for our patients.

**Referring family members and friends:**

Good Medical Practice 2024 guidelines states “You must, wherever possible, avoid providing medical care to yourself or anyone with whom you have a close personal relationship”. Therefore, OIHL does not accept self-referrals of referrals for immediate family members (spouses, children, parents/in-laws and siblings). The responsibility lies with the referring clinician to conform to guideline stipulated within the GMC code of conduct.

**What are the considerations:**

When appropriate, consider referring patients for a radiation-free alternative, such as Ultrasound or MRI.

As a referrer, there are key actions you can take to minimise your patients' exposure to radiation:

- Consider whether the examination is essential for diagnosing or managing the patient's condition.
- Consider whether the results will alter the management of the patient. In some cases, such as with x-rays for stable, chronic lower back pain in younger adults, the imaging may not contribute significantly to treatment decisions.

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- Before requesting an examination, confirm whether it has already been performed to prevent unnecessary duplication of radiation exposure.

#### **For Diagnostic imaging scans involving IV contrast:**

Ensure that the patient's eGFR levels are provided for high-risk patients, this includes all patients over the age of 65 (undertaken within the last 3 months) and those with known renal impairment (within the last 7 days).

Contrast is only administered to patients who are aged 18 and over

#### **Safety considerations for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI):**

- As the referrer, it is important to assess potential contraindications such as the presence of a cardiac pacemaker or pacing wire, cerebral aneurysm clips, cochlear implants, neuro/bio stimulators, metal implants, any history of penetrating metal eye injuries, or medical devices attached to the body. These details must be included in / with the referral which includes the make, model, manufacturer and serial number of the implant.
- Pregnant patients should only undergo MRI after a discussion of the risks and benefits with the patient, and in consultation with a radiologist. Oryon Imaging does not scan any patients in the first trimester. Oryon Imaging Require the written consent from the referring clinician prior to carrying out any MRI examination of patients undergoing an MRI Scans on a 1.5T scanner after the first trimester after assessing the risk versus benefit to both patient and the foetus.
- Patients who have underwent surgery within the last 6 weeks of their appointment date, Oryon Imaging require the written consent from the referring clinician prior to carrying out any MRI examination of patients undergoing an MRI Scan on a 1.5T scanner before the 6 Week interval as per organisational policy.