

# WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Issue Date:** 16 August 2018

**STATUS: INFORMATION**

**CATEGORY: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LETTER**

**Title:** Guidance on the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017 for employers and health professionals who carry out medical radiological procedures

**Date of Expiry / Review** N/A

**For Action by:**

Chief Executives; Medical Directors; and  
Directors of Therapies and Health Sciences  
of Health Boards and Trusts

**For information:**

Chairs, Nurse Directors and Board  
Secretaries of Health Boards and NHS Trusts  
DG/Chief Executive NHS Wales  
Deputy Chief Executive NHS Wales  
Operations Team – Health and Social  
Services Group, Welsh Government  
Communications Team – Health and Social  
Services Group, Welsh Government  
Chief Medical Officer  
Deputy Chief Medical Officer  
Chief Executive, Healthcare Inspectorate  
Wales  
Health and Safety Executive Wales  
Chief Dental Officer

**Action required by:** With Immediate effect

**Sender:** Dr Rob Orford, Chief Scientific Adviser, Health and Social Services Group, Welsh Government

**DHSS Welsh Government Contact(s) :**

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**Enclosure(s):** None



16 August 2018

Dear Colleague

**GUIDANCE ON THE IONISING RADIATION (MEDICAL EXPOSURE) REGULATIONS 2017 FOR EMPLOYERS AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WHO CARRY OUT MEDICAL RADIOLOGICAL PROCEDURES**

1. WHC/2018/007 informed NHS organisations in Wales of their obligations to ensure compliance with the requirements of new Regulations relating to Ionising Radiation. This Welsh Health Circular (WHC) provides guidance to accompany the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017 (“the Regulations”) and should therefore be read in conjunction with the Regulations. This Guidance document is not intended to be binding and cannot take the place of legal advice. The guidance can be accessed through the link below:  
  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-medical-exposure-regulations-2017-guidance>
2. The Regulations implement for Great Britain (and Northern Ireland) in part, provisions of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 (the “Basic Safety Standards Directive”) laying down the basic safety standards for protection against the dangers from exposure to ionising radiation.
3. The Regulations address the protection of persons undergoing medical exposures as part of their own medical diagnosis or treatment, as part of research, as asymptomatic individuals, as those undergoing non-medical imaging using medical radiological equipment, or as carers and comforters of persons undergoing medical exposures.
4. The Regulations impose duties on employers and those with responsibilities for undertaking activities covered by the legislation, including optimising and justifying medical exposures and administering ionising radiation.

**Action**

5. I would be grateful if you could forward this guidance to colleagues and staff as appropriate.

Yours sincerely



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal tail extending to the right.

**DR ROB ORFORD**