

VETERINARY PRACTICE

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

County

Postcode

RADIATION PROTECTION FILE

Produced to ensure compliance with:

The Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017

The contents of this file were developed in consultation with the Employer and RPA on behalf of the Practice by:

Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals
NHS Trust



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1. PRINCIPLES, DUTY HOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This RADIATION PROTECTION FILE contains the general principles and evidence that demonstrates compliance with the relevant Regulations and Guidance, in particular:

- The Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) (Statutory Instrument 2017, No. 1075) and the associated Approved Code of Practice and Guidance¹.
- BVA 2014, Guidance notes for the safe use of ionising radiations in veterinary practice, 2nd edition [out of print, and refers to pre-2018 regulations but still useful].

1.2 THE PRINCIPLES OF RADIATION PROTECTION

Radiation protection is based on three principles:

- **JUSTIFICATION:** No practice shall be adopted unless its introduction produces a net benefit i.e. all exposure to ionising radiation must be clinically justified, and the benefits must outweigh the risks.
- **OPTIMISATION:** All radiation exposures shall be kept As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP), economic and social factors being taken into account.
- **LIMITATION:** The dose equivalent to individuals shall not exceed the dose limits.

1.3 RADIATION PROTECTION DUTY HOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

There are a range of responsibilities and staff appointments required under IRR17; hence, it is important to ensure that these are made clear (in writing), and backed up by appropriate training records for that role.

1.3.1 EMPLOYER:

The *ultimate responsibility* for radiation health & safety in this Practice lies with the employer.

The Employer for this Practice is: _____

1.3.2 EMPLOYEES:

Every employee has the following obligations:

- To abide by the standard operating procedures and contingency arrangements laid down in this RADIATION PROTECTION FILE and the local rules for the unit that they are working on.

¹ <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l121.htm>

- To not knowingly expose themselves or any other person to X-rays to an extent greater than is reasonably necessary for the purposes of their work.
- To exercise reasonable care when working on any aspect of radiology.
- To immediately report to the employer whenever they have reasonable cause to believe an incident or accident has occurred with the X-ray equipment, or that they or some other person have received an overexposure.
- Only to perform the duties for which they have received adequate training.

In addition to these, it is strongly recommended that employees inform the employer (in writing) if they are pregnant, so that a suitable risk assessment may be carried out.

1.3.3 RADIATION PROTECTION ADVISOR (RPA) :

Radiation protection services are provided by the **Radiation Physics Service**, Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust. This includes the appointment of an RPA (Reg. 14 of IRR17) ; the practice is issued with a letter of appointment that confirms this in writing, which should be included in this RADIATION PROTECTION FILE.

Scope of advice required from the RPA

The RPA may be consulted on any aspect of radiation protection but under IRR17, the practice *is required* in any event to consult the RPA on the following matters:

- Radiation risk assessment of new or modified installations/techniques (Reg. 8).
- Designation of controlled areas (Reg. 17).
- Prior examination of plans for installations and the acceptance into service of new or modified x-ray systems.
- The periodic examination of engineering controls, safety features, and the regular checking of work instructions and personal protective equipment (Reg. 11).
- Drawing up of contingency plans (Reg. 13).
- Local rules (Reg. 18).
- Designation of personnel as classified radiation workers (Reg. 21).
- Incidents involving overexposure to radiation (Reg. 24).

Sample pages from 27 page document. Full template supplied as Microsoft Word document to all client practices to assist in compliance with radiation regulations.

Contact us now for a full quotation for your practice using the form on our website or by emailing us at office@hullrad.org.uk. If you would like to speak to us in person, please call us on 01482 461330.