

# **VETERINARY PRACTICE**

**Address Line 1**

**Address Line 2**

**County**

**Postcode**

# **RADIATION PROTECTION FILE**

**Produced to ensure compliance with:**

**The Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017**

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

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# CONTENTS

1. Principles, Duty Holders and Responsibilities
  - 1.1 Introduction
  - 1.2 The Principles of Radiation Protection
  - 1.3 Radiation Protection Duty Holders And Responsibilities
  - 1.4 Instruction and Training
2. Radiation Protection Procedures
  - 2.1 Registration
  - 2.2 Radiation Risk Assessments
  - 2.3 X-Ray Installations and Equipment Testing
  - 2.4 Dose Limitation & Designation of Staff
  - 2.5 Safety Features, Engineering Controls and Protective Equipment
  - 2.6 Co-Operation between Employers
  - 2.7 Designation of Controlled Areas
  - 2.8 Monitoring
  - 2.9 Local Rules

Declaration

Appendix A: Example Individual Staff Training Record

Appendix B: Staff Pregnancy in Radiology

Appendix C: Example Maintenance and Testing of Engineering & Safety Controls Record

Appendix D: Example Handover Form

Appendix E: Review and Record of Changes to this Document

# 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 Guidance<sup>1</sup>.
- 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.

<sup>1</sup> <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 Protection & Radiology Physics Department**, Hull University Teaching 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.*

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