

MAKING THE BEST USE OF CLINICAL RADIOLOGY SERVICES (MBUR)

6TH Edition 2007 [RCR MBUR6], Version 6.0.3

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First published in 1989, The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) has produced the referral guidelines, *Making the best use of clinical radiology services*, to help clinicians, radiologists, radiographers and other healthcare professionals to determine the most appropriate imaging investigation(s) for a wide range of clinical problems. They provide practical guidance based on the best available evidence, together with expert opinion where evidence is lacking or conflicting.

These guidelines are intended purely as a guide for referring clinicians. Discussions between radiologist and clinician, particularly during multidisciplinary team meetings, must always take precedence. The guidelines ought not to be used to restrict practice in specific clinical circumstances. The introduction of such recommendations requires the cooperation of all concerned; their ultimate effectiveness relies on appropriate education and locally agreed implementation.

The principal objectives of the RCR's guidelines are:

- To improve clinical practice by helping doctors working in hospitals and in primary care to choose the most appropriate imaging investigation or intervention for their patients
- To reduce unnecessary exposure of patients to radiation
- To assist in the equitable use of expensive machinery, staff and other resources.

The 300+ guidelines are designed to assist the clinician in selecting the most appropriate investigation for a given diagnostic or imaging problem. For ease of use, the guidelines are split into 12 sections:

1. Breast disease
2. Cancer
3. Chest and cardiovascular system
4. ENT/head and neck
5. Gastrointestinal system
6. Interventional radiology
7. Musculoskeletal system
8. Neurological system
9. Obstetrics and gynaecology
10. Paediatrics
11. Trauma
12. Urological, adrenal and genitourinary.

Accessing MBUR6 in the UK

MBUR6 is available to all NHS users through a licence agreement with the Department of Health.

Access in England and Scotland is via the NHS N3 Network. In order to access the guidelines, users need to be logged onto the N3 network and then type the following address into the web browser - **mbur.nhs.uk** In certain cases, you may need to use <http://mbur.nhs.uk/> Please note, there is **no www** prefix attached to the address.