

Have you 'paused and checked'?

A clinical imaging examination IR(ME)R Operator checklist

P	Patient	<p>Check the exam is justified</p> <p>Check examination history for recent studies and duplication</p> <p>Confirm patient ID, always use unique identifiers</p> <p>Confirm pregnancy status</p> <p>Confirm the patient expected the exam</p> <p>Confirm patient has been given adequate information and understands and agrees to examination</p>
A	Anatomy	<p>Select the correct anatomical area</p> <p>Select the correct laterality</p> <p>Place the correct anatomical marker within the primary beam</p>
U	User checks	<p>Confirm the exam is being completed at the right date and time</p> <p>Confirm the exposure has been authorised</p> <p>Confirm the correct modality</p> <p>Check radiation safety measures for staff and/or carers</p> <p>Communicate appropriate instructions to patient, carer and team</p>
S	Systems & Settings	<p>Select correct patient (unique ID) and exam date/time</p> <p>Select correct imaging protocol / technique</p> <p>Select optimal exposure factors (ALARP) (and adjust if required)</p> <p>Select correct detector/bucky, AEC & grid as appropriate</p>
E	Exposure	<p>Confirm there is no clinical reason this exposure should not proceed</p> <p>Expose</p> <p>Record dose and reference DRL</p> <p>Evaluate images, confirm necessity for repeat or additional views</p>
D	Draw to a close	<p>Add image comments or flags as appropriate</p> <p>Complete RIS record</p> <p>Confirm PACS images are stored accurately</p> <p>Tell patient how to get results and where to go next</p>

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"It is your legal responsibility as the IR(ME)R operator to ensure that these checks are carried out BEFORE (and after) an exposure is undertaken"