

Dear [Insert name]

**New Good Practice Report for CT Scanning and General X-ray.**

The Department of Health has recently published an expert working party report which can be found on the following web link.

 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-the-review-of-radiation-dose-issues-from-ct-scans>

The report made a number of practical recommendations for radiology staff but we would like to particularly draw your attention to the last recommendation, which suggests:

*‘The establishment of a multidisciplinary Imaging Optimisation Team (IOT) to consolidate expertise in order to consistently optimise all examinations using ionising radiation, including CT scans, for dose and image quality.’*

This recommendation also gives specific detail regarding the desired outcomes achievable by the IOT; it describes team member roles, team functions and patient safety objectives. A formalised and functioning IOT will ensure that other recommendations are adopted in order to address all patient radiation dose issues resulting from the use of CT and other x-ray examinations.

The IOT will benefit from NHS Senior Leader sponsorship. In some cases, there may be a need for radiological or referring physician practices to change. This will ensure a consistent approach to optimising CT and other x-ray examinations.

We would like to seek your assistance and strongly recommend that you:

* Formalise and support the formation of an Image Optimisation Team as described above, within your Trust/Board,
* Fully resource this team,
* Provide ongoing support for this important patient safety function and,
* Communicate with your appointed Medical Physics Expert and Radiation Protection Adviser concerning the formation and support of the Image Optimisation Team.

The requirements of the new Basic Safety Standard Directive (radiation protection) are currently being transposed into UK law. The new Directive will come into effect on February 6th 2018. The patient safety outcomes achieved by the IOT will help underpin compliance with the new Directive.

This topic will be covered at forthcoming radiology professional meetings whereby your staff can gain further help and advice.

We would like to thank you in anticipation of your help with this initiative.

Yours [x}

Copy: Radiology Business Manager, Head of Medical Physics, CEO