

## **Imaging for non-accidental injury (NAI): use of anatomical markers**

The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) and The Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) issue jointly this additional guidance in response to specific questions regarding the use of anatomical markers in imaging for suspected non-accidental injury (NAI) examinations of living children and the correct course of action to be taken if the marker is absent from the image.

It is best practice for the anatomical marker to be included on the image at the time of exposure and every possible effort should be made to achieve this first time round. Local checking and double checking procedures prior to initiating exposure to ensure that markers will appear within the irradiated zone and will be visible on the resultant images should be the norm. However, it is sometimes the case that a distressed child will not keep still and markers might move or become hidden and not be seen on the resultant image.

Where the radiographer has followed the proper process and the image quality is satisfactory except for the visibility of radiographic markers, repeat imaging would not normally be necessary or appropriate. In this circumstance, the radiographer and radiologist need to consider jointly whether a repeat exposure is necessary. If there is agreement by both that the side imaged is correct, there is no need for repeat imaging. If the radiographer is unsure or there is anatomical incongruity, repeat imaging will be necessary.

Radiographers and radiologists are right to be concerned about additional irradiation to secure images that meet the very high integrity of evidence standard. This guidance serves to assist them to minimise the number of occasions when this might be necessary. It emphasises the importance of ensuring radiographic markers are exposed simultaneously with the body part under examination and the importance of consultation and agreement between radiographer and radiologist to reduce to the minimum the number of occasions where repeat imaging needs to take place.

**Dr Tony Nicholson**  
**Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Radiology**  
**The Royal College of Radiologists**

**Mrs Susan Johnson**  
**President**  
**The Society and College of Radiographers**

### **Bibliography**

Royal College of Child Health and Paediatrics and The Royal College of Radiologists. *Standards for Radiological Investigations of Suspected Non-accidental Injury*. London: RCPCH, 2008.

Society and College of Radiographers. *Guidance for Radiographers Providing Forensic Radiography Services*. London: SCoR, 2010.

Society and College of Radiographers. *Skeletal Survey for Suspected NAI, SIDS and SUDI: Guidance for Radiographers*. London: SCoR, 2009.