Have you ‘paused and checked’?
A clinical imaging examination IR(ME)R Operator checklist

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

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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”