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
Ε	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"

