

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

PROTOCOL FOR SISTERS WITHIN CRITICAL CARE TO REQUEST ROUTINE X-RAYS FOLLOWING DESIGNATED PROCEDURES

In accordance with the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2000, it is a legal requirement that all referrals for X-ray must either be:

1. Signed by a qualified medical or dental practitioner.

Or

2. Signed by a Health Professional following formal agreement by the Trust.

Under the regulations, the Trust must also maintain a register of referrers with a list of procedures for which they have been authorised.

The Sisters/nurse in charge within critical care referring patients for routine X-rays following set procedures will follow this protocol.

1. X-ray request forms will be completed accurately, and legibly. All relevant clinical and demographic information must be included.
2. The forms are to be signed with the designation of the referrer written underneath the signature.
3. X-rays will only be requested when the results may alter patient management.
4. X-ray films will be interpreted by the medical staff within critical care and reported by the radiological department.
5. The referral will remain the clinical responsibility of the patient's Consultant.

THE PROTOCOL

On completion the following procedures will require a post-procedural check X-ray. These may be requested by either medical or F/G/H grade nursing staff in the intensive care unit.

Chest X-ray required for:

- Intubation / change of endotracheal tube;
- Following insertion of a central line or Swan Ganz catheter;
- Insertion of chest drain;

- Percutaneous tracheostomy;
- All post operative patients who have had central lines placed in theatre;
- Post operative transplant/cardiac surgery patients, after stabilisation on admission to ITU;

Chest/Abdomen X-ray required for:

- Naso jejunal tubes after placement;

This protocol is subject to annual review

Version: 2

Reviewed: March 2006, March 2009

Next Review Date: March 2011