

EP-6	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Information and Instruction to Patients	

1. Objectives

Written information is available to patients to provide prior information on the benefits and risks associated with the radiation dose associated with their medical exposure.

Written information and instructions are given to patients undergoing treatment or diagnosis with radioactive substances, their parents or carers where this is appropriate regarding precautions to be taken to minimise exposure of other persons.

2. Responsibilities

Service Leads will ensure that Level 2 procedures are in place detailing how information is made available to patients and in what form.

This information should, where practicable, be available to patients prior to their medical exposure.

In the case of individuals who are pregnant, the referrer should undertake a risk benefit discussion with the patient at the time of referral and confirm that this has been done.

In circumstances where communication with the patient or their representative prior to the exposure would not be practicable, an authorized exposure may take place without recourse to the provisions of this procedure.

3. Procedures

Agreed NHS Scotland posters explaining the benefits and risks associated with the radiation dose from some general diagnostic procedures are available and are detailed within the level 2 procedures for the appropriate service. These are displayed in appropriate locations around NHS GGC to maximise availability to patients prior to an exposure taking place.

This information is also available on the NHS GGC web pages.

For in-patients, where practicable, the operator who identifies the patient will offer the opportunity to read the appropriate information prior to the exposure.

For patients undergoing treatment or diagnosis with radioactive substances written instruction and information is provided and is detailed in a Level 2 procedure.

Information leaflets need not be specific for each type of diagnostic procedure. It is acceptable to use a generic form of leaflet containing general information about the risks associated with ionising radiation.

Leaflets are given to patients before they attend for treatment or investigation where appropriate.

Where the patient is a child or there is a communication problem the written instructions are given to an appropriate person.

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