

Site: **X-Ray Department**

Document Number: 2.17

Title: **Procedure for Enquiring of Persons of Reproductive Capacity If They May Be Pregnant or Breast Feeding for Nuclear Medicine Investigations**

Responsible Persons: **Radiologists, Radiographers, Imaging Assistant**

PROCEDURE

To be applied to all persons aged 12 years to 55 years, as described above, who are about to undergo administration of a radioactive substance (by any route).

Out-Patients

The appointments clerk will enclose a leaflet detailing the importance to the patient of telling the radiographer who is going to administer the radioactive substance, whether they may be pregnant or if they are breast feeding. This leaflet has a contact telephone number for the patient to seek advice before attending. This leaflet is sent to outpatients only.

In patients

Prior to booking an appointment the referring doctor or clinical staff will be asked by the imaging assistant or radiographer taking the request, the date of the patients last menstrual period, if they are or could be pregnant and finally if they are breastfeeding.

At attendance for examination

These questions will be asked by the radiographer or imaging assistant receiving the patient into the Nuclear Medicine department:

- What is the date of your LMP?
- Are you/could you be pregnant?
- Have you missed a period?
- Are you breastfeeding currently?

This is documented on the LMP and breast-feeding questionnaire for the department of Nuclear Medicine, which is signed and dated by the patient.

LMP

The operator who will be administering the radioactive substance is responsible for confirming that the pregnancy questions have been asked. If the LMP meets the appropriate criteria the operator will carry on with the procedure according to departmental protocols. If the LMP does not meet the criteria then the operator, who is going to authorise the procedure, will alert an ARSAC holder that the patient is potentially or actually pregnant. The ARSAC holder will make a clinical decision as to whether to proceed with the examination.

Breast Feeding

If the patient is not breastfeeding, NBF (not breast feeding) must be written on the request by the radiographer or imaging assistant.

If the patient is breast-feeding, the radiographer will **immediately** alert the operator (radiographer or radiologist) who is about to perform the injection. The ARSAC licence holder or lead radiographer will consult the ARSAC notes for guidance and provide appropriate information to the patient. This will be documented on CRIS.

Mirena Coils and Depomedrone or other injected form of contraception

Where a patient states either of the above forms of contraception are in use and they are happy to sign a proforma that they are not pregnant then an examination may proceed. Where doubt is expressed by the patient then a pregnancy test should be performed using the guidelines set out in this procedure