JUSTIFICATION PROTOCOLS FOR MAMMOGRAPHY

ALBURY WODONGA HEALTH
WODONGA CAMPUS
INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the Victorian Radiation Act 2005 Wodonga Medical Imaging, Albury Wodonga Health Wodonga Campus (AWHWC) requires all medical imaging referrals that will use medical radiation, to be justified and optimised.

WHY ARE GUIDELINES AND REFERRAL CRITERIA REQUIRED?
A useful investigation is one in which the result – positive or negative – will alter management or add confidence to the clinician’s diagnosis. A significant number of radiological investigations do not fulfil these aims and may add unnecessarily to patient irradiation. The chief causes of this are:
- Repeating investigations which have already been performed.
- Investigating when the results are unlikely to affect patient management.
- Investigating too often.
- Requesting the wrong investigation.
- Failing to provide appropriate clinical information and questions that the investigation should answer.
- Over-investigating.

SCOPE:
This document provides specific protocols that should be applied to medical imaging referrals prior to mammography or a mammography procedure.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
It is the responsibility of the Radiation Medical Practitioner to define whether a mammography examination is justified. It is the role of the Operator to assess a referral and determine whether the examination falls within the criteria of the generic justification protocol or whether it should be justified on an individual basis.

DEFINITION OF JUSTIFICATION:
A radiation procedure is justified when it is determined that the radiation exposure will produce sufficient benefit to the exposed individual to offset the risk associated with the radiation exposure. In determining the net benefit from a radiation procedure, the Radiation Medical Practitioner must take into account clause 3.2.2 of the Code.

JUSTIFICATION PROCESS:
- Justification of mammography examinations and procedures can be on the basis of generic justification OR on an individual basis. In both cases the definitions are determined by the Radiation Medical Practitioner.
- As part of the justification process the Radiation Medical Practitioner should:
  - communicate directly with the referrer to seek clarification if the referral is:
    - Inappropriate.
    - Ambiguous.
    - Would lead to a radiation exposure that does answer the clinical question being posed.
- The Radiation Medical Practitioner should where it is clinically appropriate:
  - Substitute other imaging tests that do not use ionizing radiation.
  - Modify the examination.
  - Cancel the examination.
- Limit the procedure scope, eg: limit views performed.
- Communicate decisions with the referrer.

- **AEC** Automatic Exposure Control.
- **kV** Kilo Voltage
- **mAs** Milliamps per second
### MAMMOGRAPHY

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<td>- Suspicious lesion on routine images</td>
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