



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

**MAKING THE BEST USE OF A DEPARTMENT OF
CLINICAL RADIOLOGY**

GUIDELINES FOR DOCTORS

Summary

1. The Royal College of Radiologists has published new guidelines on the use of Clinical Radiology which are intended for the use of hospital doctors and family practitioners. Copies have been sent to Chief Area Medical Officers, Medical Directors of NHS Trusts and to General Practitioners through their professional networks. A copy for each Unit General Manager in your Board is enclosed.

Action

2. Unit General Managers should bring the guidelines to the attention of clinicians at all levels who may need to refer patients to Departments of Clinical Radiology. The guidelines should also be incorporated into purchaser/provider service contracts which involve radiological examinations in the interests of the welfare of patients and cost effectiveness of the service. They can also be used in the accountability review process.

Background

3. The guidelines have been prepared to help referring clinicians to make the best use of a Department of Clinical Radiology. The Royal College of Radiologists believes that the guidelines should become the standard of good radiological practice in the National Health Service. Their primary objective is to improve clinical practice in the best interests of the patient by reducing unnecessary exposure to radiation and the number of unnecessary referrals for investigation. The guidelines indicate which would be the most appropriate and safest form of radiological investigation for a whole range of clinical presentations.

11 October 1993

Addressees

For Action:

General Managers,
Health Boards

General Manager,
State Hospital

Chief Executives,
NHS Trusts

To be copied to:

Unit General Managers
for action

For Information:

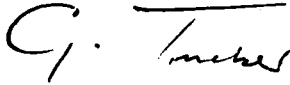
General Manager,
Common Services Agency

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4. Further copies of the guidelines may be obtained from the Guidelines Secretary, Royal College of Radiologists, 38 Portland Place, London W1N 3DG.



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