

# IR(ME)R

*What's that and what's it got to do with me??*

Hall Graham BDS FDSRCPS MSc Head  
of Primary care RQIA



# Glasgow Dental Hospital & School

THIS HOSPITAL  
IS A  
SMOKING ZONE

'Doc, I can't stop singing the green green grass of home.'

'That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome.'

'Is it common?'

'It's not unusual

Guidance Notes for  
**Dental Practitioners** on the  
**Safe Use of X-Ray Equipment**

# WHY

- To produce and maintain an environment where the level of ionising radiation is 'safe' for both workers and patients.
- Limit the probability of stochastic effects to acceptable levels
- Determine the level of risk involved





01.1135.1



The Regulation and  
Quality Improvement  
Authority







# RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IN IRMER

Employer

Referrer

IRMER practitioner

Operator

IRMER regulations 2,4 and 5

# JUSTIFICATION

- Regulation 6 IRMER REGS
- Sufficient net benefit
- Detriments
- Alternatives
- Write it down!!!!
- Regulation 5 (2) The practitioner shall be responsible for the justification of a medical exposure
- Selection Criteria in Dental Radiology

# CLINICAL EVALUATION

- Regulation 8
- Clinical evaluation of the outcome of each procedure is recorded in accordance with the employer's procedures

# OPTIMISATION

- Regulation 7 (3) – the operator shall select equipment and methods to ensure that for each medical exposure the dose of ionising radiation to the individual undergoing the exposure is as low as reasonably practicable.
- Written protocols in place for type of standard exposure for each x-ray set
- Adherence to diagnostic reference levels

# OPTIMISATION

- Practical aspects
- Tube operating parameters
- Rectangular collimation
- Film speed
- X-ray holders



# DIAGNOSTIC REFERENCE LEVELS

- Regulation 4 (c) diagnostic reference levels for radiodiagnostic examinations having regard to European DRLs
- A radiation dose for a typical examination for a standard sized patient
- Aid to optimisation
- National or European DRLs
- Should not be exceeded without good reason
- Do we know?
- MPE

# EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

- Regulation 10 – the employer shall draw up, keep up to date and preserve at each radiological installation an inventory of equipment at that installation, and when requested , shall furnish it to the RQIA.

# OTHER ASPECTS

- Patient identification
- Research
- Medico-legal exposures
- Pregnancy
- Audit
- CPD

# LEARNING

- 2 Interesting years
- 1981
- Prince Charles got married
- Liverpool European champions
- Australia lost the ashes
- Pope died

# LEARNING

- 2005
- Prince Charles got married
- Liverpool European champions
- Australia lost ashes
- Pope died

# LEARNING

- The next time Charles plans to get married
- Someone tell the pope



**Realistic  
expectations !**





**Thank you for  
listening!**