

Radiology Department

X-rays: Information for patient supporters

Introduction

Thank you for offering to help support a patient whilst their X-rays are taken. This will help us to obtain the highest quality X-rays.

Risks to You

Having an X-ray carries a very small risk of cancer occurring many years or decades after the exposure. This risk depends upon the dose of radiation received.

By supporting a patient during their X-ray you may receive a small dose of radiation. You will be provided with a lead apron to wear to ensure that this dose is much lower than the patient. This ensures that the risk to you is minimal.

Safety

The dose you will receive is typically less than one day of normal background radiation in the UK. However you should not help support the patient if:

- You do not feel happy to accept the risks described above;
- There is any chance that you might be pregnant;
- **Members of the public only** - You have supported a patient on more than 30 occasions in the past year;
- **Members of staff (excluding Neonatal Unit) only** - You have supported a patient on more than 5 occasions in the past year;
- **Neonatal Unit staff only** – You are not wearing a radiation monitor badge.



Patient Information

If any of these apply to you, please tell the radiographer immediately. We will then attempt to arrange for someone else to support the patient during their X-rays.

Further Information

If you have any other questions or would like further information, please contact the Radiology Department on 024 7696 6331.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6331 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

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