

Enabling equitable access to requesting diagnostic imaging for registered healthcare professionals

Registered healthcare professional, line manager, and clinical supervisor agree operational need for referral entitlement in line with scope of practice.

Decision, supervision requirements, and accountability lines formally agreed and approved by the employer to accompany the application for entitlement.



RCN Guidance Document

Application made to relevant entitling body/imaging department through an agreed method such as written or digital forms.

Referrers must audit their practice regularly during revalidation to ensure requests align with their scope. Employers should maintain records of these audits for the entitling body/imaging department as needed.

Every application must include an organisational chart that defines practice levels (enhanced, advanced, consultant), responsibility levels, and accountability lines in the patient pathway.

Applicants must provide evidence of training and ongoing professional development in radiation effects, contrast safety, MRI safety, and completed referral guideline training.

The entitling body/imaging department will review the evidence, identify gaps, and notify the applicant if more information is required. Once approved, a written 'scope of referral entitlement' will be issued to the referrer.

Referrers must notify their employer and the entitling body/imaging department of any changes in their scope of practice, including no longer meeting the agreed criteria. Entitlement may not transfer between roles or employers.



References:

1. (2021) Clinical imaging requests from non-medically qualified professionals. Available at: <https://www.rcn.org.uk/-/media/Royal-College-Of-Nursing/Documents/Publications/2021/April/009-108.pdf>
2. Hughes, H. et al. (2022) BIR position statement: Governance Requirements for non-medical referrers to radiology, The British journal of radiology. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9733618/#:~:text>All%20NMRs%20should%20receive%20training,a%20defined%20scope%20of%20practice>

The Centre for Advancing Practice

