Legislation and Responsibilities

The Department of Health (DOH) is the designated competent authority and regulator, under statutory instrument (SI) 478 (2002), for patient radiation protection in Ireland. The DOH has delegated these functions to the Director General of the Health Service Executive (HSE). The National Radiation Safety Committee (NRSC) is the statutory committee established under SI 478 to advise the DG on matters pertaining to medical ionising radiation exposure.

The HSE Medical Exposure Radiation Unit (MERU) was established to serve as the executive, administrative and advisory unit for the NRSC. MERU also acts as the regulator of patient radiation protection in all public and private radiological locations on behalf of the HSE.

Figure 1: Irish legislative framework for radiation protection

Legislation


NRSC Guidance to holders on their Responsibilities under SI 478/ SI 303/SI 459

Guidance on the Role of the Medical Physics Expert (MPE) in Dentistry

All radiological practices are required to engage the expertise of a Medical Physics Expert (MPE). In 2008 the NRSC established a working group to make recommendations on the definition of a MPE and define the role of a MPE in Dentistry.

Report of the Subcommittee on the Role of MPE in Dentistry

This information is intended to act as a guideline to the regulations and it must be read in conjunction with all other radiation protection regulations. It does not purport to be comprehensive or to be a legal interpretation or to constitute legal or professional advice.