Appendix 2

**Guidance & Information for those defined as “Carers and Comforters” of Patients Exposed to Ionising Radiation in X-ray Studies**

It is sometimes necessary for a family member or friend to be present during an examination where ionising radiation is involved, either to support, provide care to or reassure the patient. This person is legally called a “Carer and Comforter” and will receive a small amount of radiation.

You have been given this leaflet because a healthcare professional has identified you as a possible Carer and Comforter. It contains important information to allow you to agree to continue in this role.

We all receive radiation, known as ‘background radiation’ every day, from cosmic rays reaching the earth from space, radioactive minerals, certain foods and naturally occurring radon gas. We receive higher amounts of radiation if we live in areas with higher radon levels, or if we take international flights.

**How much radiation will I get by acting as a carer/comforter?**

X-rays are used to create images of the inside of the body. The X-rays are only present for a defined period of time known as the exposure. If you are required to support or assist a patient (including your child) during the X-ray exposure this makes you a “Carer or Comforter”

The dose to you will be very small and depends on a number of different factors including the type of procedure, how close you are to the patient during the exposure and the images required. Staff will work to ensure that your dose is kept as low as is practically possible. You will be instructed by the radiographer where to stand during the exposure and may be given a lead apron or shield to go around your neck when required.

Provided that you follow the instructions from the healthcare professional the amount of radiation you will receive whilst caring and/or comforting the patient will be between a few days or weeks of natural background radiation.

Please tell us if you are, or might be, pregnant so we can decide whether it is appropriate for you to act as a Comforter and Carer. It will also allow the healthcare professional to make adjustments to make sure the dose to you and your unborn baby is as low as possible.

Children (those under the age of 18) would not normally be considered for the role of a carer and/or comforter but exceptional circumstances can be considered. The healthcare professionals will be able to advise you about this should this apply to you

Please ask the health care professional if you have any further questions or concerns prior to the start of the examination.

If you are to act as a comforter or carer we need you to sign this form before the examination, to state that you understand that you are agreeing to act in this role and to confirm that the small risks associated with the above exposure have been explained to you, and you knowingly and willingly accept the risks and wish to continue.

By signing below you are also agreeing that this form can be kept securely on file within the imaging information system.

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**To be signed by the carer and comforter before exposure.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Printed Name |  | Date of Birth |  |
| Signature |  | Relationship to Patient |  |
| Date |  |

**To be completed by Healthcare professional**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Patient Hospital Number |  | Date of Birth |  |
| Patient Name |  | Date of Examination |  |
| Healthcare ProfessionalSignature |  | Healthcare Professional Printed Name |  |

**Exposure Parameters**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Examination: |  |  |
| Exposure Factors: |  kV mA(s) |  DLP |
| Location of C&C during Exposure |  |

Protective equipment used (please tick which have been provided): Lead Apron Thyroid Shield Gloves