

PROCEDURE C

Procedure for making enquiries of individuals of child bearing age to establish whether the individual is or may be pregnant or breast feeding.

Breast Screening Exposures

There is no significant radiation dose to the foetus from mammography and for the purposes of radiation protection; there is no requirement to enquire about pregnancy prior to imaging (as per NHSBSP IRMER Guidelines).

Non- Screening Exposures

Pregnancy: For non-screening mammography, the pregnancy status is of benefit to the clinician and the image interpreter as pregnancy may change the mammographic appearance (increased breast density) and may reduce the quality of the projected image. Pregnancy status is established by the mammographer carrying out the procedure. Patients aged between 10-55years are asked if they are pregnant prior to the mammogram and this is recorded on the request form. If a patient confirms pregnancy the radiographer will notify the referrer and will proceed if verbal consent is received from patient and referrer. This is requested on the request form.

Post-partum: Non-screening mammography is only carried out 3 months post-partum.

Breast-feeding: Breast feeding status is also of benefit to the clinician. Non screening mammography is only carried out on someone who has ceased breast feeding for at least 3 months. This is established by the clinician and recorded on the patient request form.