

Date: 02/09/2015

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/012340 - Chest x-ray reporting policy**

Please provide me with your radiology department policy on the reporting of chest xrays/radiographs taken of adult In-patients/Emergency Department patients.

Routinely are chest x-rays formerly reported (by the radiology department): immediately (or as near as), same day, within 1 week, or not at all? And who performs this formal report (radiologist / reporting radiographer.

All Chest X-Rays are formally reported by Radiologists, they are reported as soon as possible. Following the 'Kavanagh' review of Radiological Services, the Trust is in the middle of an overall complex departmental service review. The revised Statement of Practice for plain film reporting will take several months to complete.

The current SOP (Statement of Practice ) for DGH prepared by Dr Peter Oliver in 2014 states, in line with the statutory IRMER Regulations Act (2000) that

1. All images taken as part of diagnosis, treatment, ongoing medical management and research must have a traceable record of the image being evaluated by a recognised medical practitioner or allied health professional delegated with this responsibility.
2. It is the referring practitioners responsibility to make it clear in the notes that a referral for radiological investigation has been requested. When images are subsequently provided by radiology, these must be evaluated and a record made in the notes by the medical practitioner dealing with the patient at the time, and in consultation with colleagues within the medical team where additional expertise is required.
3. Ultimate responsibility for the quality of medical care rests with the Consultant responsible for the patients care.

The SOP maintains that the Radiology Dept undertakes a responsibility to report all of the following

1. CT scans
2. Interventional procedures undertaken in the X-Ray Department
3. All GP imaging procedures referred directly to Radiology
4. Nuclear Medicine Studies

General In and Out patient films and ED films may be reported by Radiologist or Reporting Advanced Practitioner Radiographers as time and resources allow, but complete coverage cannot be guaranteed. A report may be requested where the interpretation is in doubt or outside the experience of the clinician