



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh
Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

DRAFT

Physiotherapists Registration Board

Standards of Competence for Referral for Radiological Diagnostic Procedures

Version – Public Consultation 2024



Domain One

Professional Knowledge for Referral for Radiological Diagnostic Procedures

Graduates will:

- 1.1 Know the guidelines and the clinical application of the range of modalities used in diagnostic imaging
- 1.2 Be able to critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of a range of modalities used in diagnostic imaging
- 1.3 Know the risks and contraindications associated with exposure to ionising radiation in clinical presentations across the lifespan, including children, persons of childbearing age and pregnant people
- 1.4 Know the legislative and regulatory framework governing the use of ionising radiation and the requirements related to the practice of referring for radiological procedures
- 1.5 Know the principles of radiation protection, including justification and optimisation
- 1.6 Know the clinical pathways for follow-up care as appropriate



Domain Two

Justifying a Referral for Radiological Diagnostic Procedures

Graduates will:

- 2.1 Identify service user suitability for referral for radiological procedures and select the clinically appropriate diagnostic imaging modality to address service user presentation
- 2.2 Apply the principle of justification for radiological referring using evidence-based imaging referral guidelines
- 2.3 Justify the referral decision in written form through the production of clear, concise, timely and accurate documentation that provides the relevant and appropriate clinical information to support the justification and optimisation process

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Domain Three

Safety and Communication

Graduates will:

- 3.1 Operate in accordance with legislation and national and/or local policies, guidelines and/or procedures for the referral of service users for radiological diagnostic procedures
- 3.2 Identify the service user's pregnancy or breastfeeding status, as appropriate
- 3.3 Be able to recognise the signs of clinical change during the referral process that may affect appropriateness and suitability for referral, and communicate with the multidisciplinary team as appropriate
- 3.4 Be able to effectively communicate the role and responsibilities of a referrer for radiological diagnostic procedures
- 3.5 Apply communication approaches, appropriate to the service user, to explain the purposes, benefits and risks of diagnostic imaging, to enable the service user to make an informed decision on referral and follow-up care as indicated