

lechyd a Diogelwch – Health and Safety

ETHICAL APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE USE OF X-RAYS FOR MEDICAL AND RESEARCH PURPOSES

This Information Sheet provides guidance to University staff and students on meeting the ethical approval requirements stipulated by the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2000 when x-raying patients and volunteers for medical or research purposes.

Introduction

Bangor University operates DEXA X-ray machines which can provide valuable scientific and medical information about human anatomy. Patients and volunteers will be exposed to low levels of ionising radiation during scans and as such the requirements of the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (IRMER) 2000 apply.

A key requirement of the IRMER Regulations is that all exposure to ionising radiation for medical and research purposes must be subject to rigorous ethical considerations to ensure no unnecessary exposure takes place. The table below outlines the specific ethics approval requirements for the different types of DEXA X-ray use.

Type of Use	Ethical Approval Process
Medical Referral for Health Related Diagnostic Procedures (eg from a medical practitioner at Ysbyty Gwynedd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local NHS Ethics Committee must approve the use of the DEXA Scanner for the diagnostic medical procedure they are requesting • The Operator of the DEXA Scanner must be registered with Health and Safety Services and named as an Operator on the NHS Ethical Approval documentation
Joint Research Projects with the NHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local NHS Ethics Committee must approve the use of the DEXA Scanner for all joint research projects • The School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences Academic Ethics Committee must have oversight of all joint NHS Research Projects and report to the Bangor University Ethics Committee • The Operator of the DEXA Scanner must be registered with Health and Safety Services and named as an Operator on the NHS Ethical Approval documentation
Joint Research Projects with External Parties <u>other than the NHS</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences Academic Ethics Committee must approve all collaborative Research Projects • The School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences Academic Ethics Committee to report to Bangor University Ethics Committee • The Operator of the DEXA Scanner must either be registered with Health and Safety Services or be supervised by the RPS if they are a non University Operator
University led Research Projects <u>not involving the NHS or any external party</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences Academic Ethics Committee must approve all University led Research Projects • The School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences Academic Ethics Committee to report to Bangor University Ethics Committee • The Operator of the DEXA Scanner must be registered with Health and Safety Services and named as an Operator