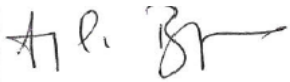



## POLICY ON NURSE PRESCRIBING OF MEDICAL IONISING RADIATION<sup>1</sup>

<b>Version Number</b>	V1
<b>Date of Issue</b>	July 2016
<b>Reference Number</b>	PNPMIR-07-2016-FON-V1
<b>Review Interval</b>	Yearly for the first review & then two yearly unless changes in legislation and practice suggest a more frequent review
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<b>Location of Copies</b>	On Hospital Intranet and locally in department


### Document Review History

Review Date	Reviewed By	Signature
2019		

### Document Change History

Change to Document	Reason for Change


<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/ONMSD/Practicedevelopment/xrayprescribing/guidingframeworkx-rayprescribing.pdf>

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## 1.0 Introduction

The policy for nurse prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray), must be developed within the legislative and regulatory framework and any conditions determined by the health service provider. It should be stated that the policy must be read in conjunction with the legislation, regulation, rules and the An Bord Altranais guidance documents listed below.

## 1.2 Legislation and Professional Regulation

Irish Law was amended in 2007, to allow the opportunity for nurses to expand their scope of practice to include authority to prescribe medical ionising radiation (X-Ray). The Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 303 of 2007 amended SI No.478 of 2002 European Communities (Medicinal Ionising Radiation Protection) Regulations 2002. The S.I incorporated an amendment to the previous definition of prescriber to included nurses as prescribers of ionising radiation (X-Ray). S.I No. 303 European Communities (Medical Ionising Radiation Protection (Amendment) Regulation 2007 states that:


“(d) A person whose name is entered on the register of nurses as maintained by An Bord Altranais established by the Nurses Act 1985 and who meets the standards and requirements set down by An Board Altranais from time to time to allow them to refer individuals for medical exposures to a practitioner”.

## 1.3 Professional Regulation (Nursing)

An Bord Altranais (ABA), is the statutory regulatory body for Nurses and Midwives in Ireland. Following consultation with the Faculty of Radiologists, ABA published the Requirements and Standards for Nurse Education Programmes for Authority to Prescribe Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) (An Board Altranais 2008). The Requirements and Standards document outlines the requirements for the nurse education and the approval process for education providers for the provision of education for authority to prescribe ionising radiation (X-Ray) in terms of learning outcomes, competencies for authority to prescribe ionising radiation, syllabus/indicative content, theoretical and clinical instruction and scope of practice for prescribing ionising radiation.

In addition, nurses prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray) must practice in accordance with guidance issued by Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland including:

- Recording Clinical Practice-Guidance to Nurse and Midwives (2002)
- The Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Nurses and Midwives (201)
- Review of the Scope of Nursing and Midwifery (2015)

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## 2.0 Applicable to

This policy is applicable to the following persons / groups in OLCHC:

- Registered nurses, who are entered on the division of nurse prescribers with An Bord Altranais.
- Prescribing Site Coordinator.
- Divisional Nurse Managers and Nursing Line Managers.
- Director of Nursing.
- Consultant Medical Practitioner/s the medical team/s participating in the Collaborative Practice Agreement.
- Medication Safety Committee
- Radiation Safety Committee
- Clinical Risk Manager
- The Pharmacy Department, including ward based clinical pharmacists
- Drugs and Therapeutics Committee
- Medical Board
- Chief Executive Officer

The policy also affects the following:

- The child and his / her parent / guardian


## 3.0 Definition of Policy

A policy is a principle that governs activity and which individuals are **expected** to follow. The document outlines the policy of Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin (OLCHC) in relation to nurse prescribing of ionising radiation.

## 4.0 Objectives of Policy

The objectives of this policy are:

- **Guidance:** To provide guidance for the professional practice of registered nurse prescribers (RNP) employed with OLCHC.
- **Responsibility and accountability:** To provide clear lines of responsibility, authority and accountability to support nurse prescribing within OLCHC.
- **Professional and Legislative Responsibilities:** To outline the professional and legislative responsibilities in relation to prescribing practices by registered nurse prescribers.
- **Partnership and Collaboration:** To ensure that medication needs of the child are met in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team and in partnership with the child and his/her family.
- **Safety:** To support the prescribing practice of RNP's, thus ensuring children's safety during the medication management process.

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## Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the policy, is to introduce nurse prescribing ionising radiation and develop new ways of working, provide better access and meet the need of the child and family in partnership and collaboration with the inter and multidisciplinary teams. The aim is to:

- Link the introduction of nurse prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray) to strategic service development.
- Provide clear guidance underpinned by the legislative and regulatory framework and conditions applied by the health service provider to allow nurses to prescribe ionising radiation (X-Ray).
- Commit to the principle, that nurse prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray), must be embedded within a sound, robust clinical governance framework, with regular auditing and evaluation.
- Provide clear lines of responsibility and accountability to support nurses prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray).
- Ensure the safety of patients or service users.
- Highlight best practice supported by relevant documents and policies, which will support nurse prescribers, to maintain and improve their prescribing competencies, and;
- Communicate the health care providers structures and processes to support nurse prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray)

## 5.0 Governance of Nurse Prescribing in OLCHC

The policy of OLCHC is to ensure that the implementation and development of nurse prescribing ionising radiation, is situated within a robust clinical governance framework.


The Senior Nursing Management Team in OLCHC, has outlined the following criteria, which a nurse must meet in order to be nominated to apply for a nurse prescribing course:

- Employed at a grade of CNM2 level or above<sup>1</sup>.
- Working in OLCHC for one year minimum<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>These grades include:

**Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ADON Grade)** – The National Council for Nursing & Midwifery, stipulate that these nurses have a dual reporting relationship to the Director of Nursing and to the Consultant.

**Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNM2 Grade)** – The National Council for Nursing & Midwifery, stipulate that these nurses have a reporting relationship to the Divisional Nurse Manager and liaise with the children's lead Consultant.

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Within the context of a Collaborative Practice Agreement the Registered Nurse Prescriber, will have a reporting relationship with the responsible Consultant.

<sup>2</sup>This does not relate to nurses, who are appointed from another hospital and who may already have undertaken a nurse prescribing course. This will require negotiation with the Director of Nursing and the Consultants within the area.

## 6.0 Definitions

**Competence** – the ability of the registered nurse to practice safely and effectively fulfilling her / her professional responsibility within her / his scope of practice (Review of Scope of Practice for Nursing and Midwifery, An Board Altranais, 2000b).

**Nurse** – A woman or man, whose name is entered in the An Board Altranais register and includes a midwife and nursing (Nurses Act 1985).

**Ionising Radiation** – Radiation that produces ionization in matter. Examples are alpha particle, gamma rays, x-rays and neutrons. When these radiations pass through the tissues of the body, they have sufficient energy to damage DNA. (Health Protection Agency 2009)


**X-Ray** – A discrete quantity of electromagnetic energy without mass or charge. Emitted by an X-Ray machine. (Health Protection Agency 2009)

## 4.0 Objective of the Guidelines

### Implementation Group

The roles of the local Implementation Group has responsibility to:

- Identify suitable clinical areas for the introduction of nurses, prescribing of medical ionising radiation (X-Ray) in the local health services.
- Implement policies, protocols, guidelines to support the practice change.
- Ensure robust clinical competency assessment systems are in place.
- Establish a link to the database of nurses prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray) in each hospital.
- Monitor impact of the change in practice on radiology services.
- Ensure risk management structures are in place.
- Review any unexpected incidents or events.
- Ensure audit systems and feedback mechanisms are in place including feedback / learning mechanisms.
- Oversee evaluation process of all aspects of the change.
- Report to Radiation Safety Committee.

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The Director will sign the nurse prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray) Declaration Form, on behalf of the health service provider and in doing so, commits to ensuring that the following structures are in place to support nurses prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray):

- **Selection of prescribers** – Ensure that all entrants to the prescribing of the ionising radiation (X-Ray) education programme, are selected according to criteria, indicating their potential to prescribe safely in the area which they will practice.
- **Authorisation to commence prescribing** – Authorises nurses, who have successfully completed the education programme to be entered on the national database and to commence prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray).
- **Safe Management** - Ensures an organisation policy for nurse prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray), is in place, as is the ability to safely manage and quality assure prescribing practices. Risk management systems, must also be in place and processes for adverse event reporting.
- **Education and Practice Development** - Includes appropriate Clinical Supervisor arrangements and commitment to continuing education for staff support the prescribing initiative.
- **Co-ordination** - A named individual with responsibility for the initiative locally and for liaison with the education provider, An Bord Altranais and the HSE Offices of the Nursing Services Director. Commitment to comply with and ensure data input for the Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) Data Collection System. Access to a computer, email and internet for data input to the Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) Data Collection Systems.
- **Audit and Evaluation** - A mechanism to audit the Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) practices.
- **Final approval process** - Once all the structures, process, policies and procedures are established to support Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) in accordance with the legislative and regulatory framework, the Director of Nursing, on behalf of the health service provider [name organisation] must be given the final approval and enter the nurse prescriber on to the national database, thus authorising the nurse to commence ionising radiation (X-Ray) in the health service setting.

#### 4.1 Nurse Manager of the Nurse Prescriber (X-Ray)

Detail the responsibilities of the relevant nurse manager within the health care setting for Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray)


Detail the responsibilities of the nurse line manager, in relation to Nurse Prescriber Ionising Radiation (X-Ray), working within their area of responsibility.

Details responsibilities in relation to audit, such as receiving, interpreting and responding appropriately to audit reports conducted by the Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray).

This may include:

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- Coordinating the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the structures and processes to support sage Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) and ensuring its compliance with the requirements and standards of An Bord Altranais and the Health Service Executive.
- Acting as a central point of contact for the Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray), for clinical supervisors, medical practitioners and key stakeholders in order to communicate regarding the Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) initiative.
- Liaising with nurses, both undertaking educational preparation and those authorised to prescribe ionising radiation (X-Ray), the Local Implementation Group risk management, radiology departments and all other relevant stakeholder.
- Facilitating nurses prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray within the health service provider to meet their responsibilities to ensure safe and effective prescribing).
- Supporting the implementation of the monitoring, audit and the evaluation processes for nurses authorised to prescribe prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray).
- Overseeing the monitoring, audit and evaluation of prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray) in line with the health service providers audit policy; and
- Providing reports on the development, introduction, monitoring and evaluation of Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) the health service provider.

## 4.2 Responsibilities of the Clinical Supervisor

It is the responsibility of the clinical supervisor to:


- Provide support, teaching and learning opportunities in the clinical practicum.
- Facilitate learning by encouraging critical thinking and reflection.
- Provide dedicated time and opportunities for the nurse to conduct a full episode of care, to include prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray).
- Ensure the nurse integrates theory with practice.
- Verify and document all supervised practice for the duration of the programme.
- Meet formally to review progress.

Formally assess the nurses' competence in the clinical practicum, using the Assessment Tool for Assessing Clinical Competence (*Episode 5 and Episode 10*).

- Document that the nurse is competent or not competent (Appendix 10).
- Collaborate with the Programme Coordinator, to ensure adequate support for the nurse in the clinical practicum.
- Sign the Nurse Prescribing of Medical Ionising Radiation Declaration Form (Appendix 7), to confirm his / his commitment to the process.

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The clinical supervisor has no further role, following the nurses' completion of the education programme.


### 4.3 Nurse Undertaking Education Programme

When undertaking the education programme the nurse will:

- Successfully complete the Certificate Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray);
  - Ensure that the theoretical and clinical experience requirements and assessments are completed within the required timeframe;
  - Discusses with the Director / Prescribing Site Coordinator, any situations where these responsibilities cannot or are not being fulfilled; and
  - Present evidence of successful complete of the programme to the Director of Nursing.

### 4.4 Nurse Authorised to Prescribe Ionising Radiation (X-Ray)

- The Nurse with Authority to Prescribe Ionising Radiation (X-Ray)
  - Is responsible for the assessment for the patient / service user, determining what the problem is and making a diagnosis that may lead to a clinical decision to prescribe ionising radiation (X-Ray). The Registered Nurse Prescriber, holds full accountability and responsibility for this process / action.
  - Ensure their name is entered in HSE national database.
  - Practice in compliance with all of the relevant statutory provisions, An Board Altranais guidelines and all local guidelines and conditions.
  - Prescribes for patient / service user populations within the practice setting and scope of practice set out in their local policy.
  - Inputs information for the National Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) Minimum Data Set on all prescriptions written in the Nurse Prescribing Ionising (X-Ray) Data Collection System and furnishes statistical reports as required.
  - Commits to and undertakes continuing professional development to maintain their competence for prescriptive authority. Informs the Director or Line Manager of any concerns pertaining to their competence.

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- Conducts audits of prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray) practice and furnishes reports as required.
- Works collaboratively with other members of the healthcare team, in order to enhance therapeutic outcomes for patients / service users.
- Acts as an educated advisor to other students undertaking the Certificate in Nursing (Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray))
- Maintains ongoing communication and collaboration with members of the health care team including collaborating medical practitioners and the radiology departments.
- Discusses with the Director of Nursing or designate any situations where these responsibilities cannot or are not being fulfilled.

## 5.0 Indemnity

Consider including the statement on the cover provided by the State Claims Agency (CIS) – see below extract from the State Claims Agency Statement (20<sup>th</sup> April 2009) (Appendix 4).

## 6.0 Procedure

### 6.1 Verification of Prescribing Status

Details processes in place for key stakeholders within the outside health care setting to verify prescribing status of the nurse authorised to prescribe ionising radiation (X-Ray).


### 6.2 Good Prescribing Practice

Detail the arrangements for the following practice:

- Responsibility for prescribing decisions.
- Mandatory Patient / Service User and Prescriber details
- Legibility.
- The user Royal College of Radiology Referral Guidelines; and
- Patient referral and follow up pathway (Policy Annexe 2)

### 6.3 Reporting of near misses and adverse drug reactions

Detail the process within the health care setting for reporting adverse incidents.

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## 6.4 Information sharing

Identify the process in place to ensure patients or service users, their families and other health care professional are informed about the scope and limits of the Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) initiative.

## 6.5 Record Keeping

Detail the requirements for documentation and maintenance of records including the need for accurate, legible, unambiguous and contemporaneous records.

## 6.6 Monitor of Prescribing

Outline the process to monitor the safety, effectiveness, appropriateness and acceptability of prescribing ionising radiation (X-Ray) practice.

Detail the requirement for and arrangements in place to enable a Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) to monitor their own prescribing practice.

Outline the requirement for the nurses prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) to collect and input all information required for the National Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) Minimum Dataset.

## 6.7 Audit

Detail the auditing process to be put in place by the health service provider [name organisation] including arrangements necessary to ensure that practice is based on sound clinical evidence, and is cost effective.


## 6.7 Changes to the status of Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray)

Detail the process to be followed, if there is a change in:

- Contact details, such as name, address etc.
- Scope of practice.
- Competencies (if a Nurse prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) is out of practice for a period of time; for example, long-term sick leave, detail the process to be followed to ensure they are still competent to prescribe); and
- In addition, the Nurse Prescribing Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) is responsible for maintaining competence for their prescriptive authority as per Requirements and Standards for Nurse Education Programmes for Authority to Prescribe Ionising Radiation (X-Ray) (An Bord Altranais 2008).

(Insert text here) What is the anticipated outcome that is intended or that guides your present actions?

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## 6.7 References

*An Bord Altranais (2000) Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework. An Bord Altranais, Dublin.*

*An Bord Altranais (2008) Requirement and Standards for Nurse Education Programmes for Authority to Prescribe Ionising Radiation (X-Ray). An Bord Altranais, Dublin.*

*Health Protection Agency (2009) retrieved from <http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1153846673585?p=1153846673585> on April 8, 2009*

**Above link to be confirmed???**

**Below is a suggestion link Health Protection Agency Annual report and Agency 2009**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/248278/0612.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/248278/0612.pdf)

## Bibliography

## Appendices

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