

Dental X-ray Protection Services

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Dental X-ray Protection Services



**Radiation
Protection
Service
for
Dentists**



Press and Information Group

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Are You Complying with the Regulations?

Most dental practices use X-ray equipment and as such are required to comply with two specific sets of regulations; the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99) and the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2000 (IRMER).

IRR99 These regulations deal with the protection of employees from ionising radiation at work. A main feature of these regulations is that radiation employers (dentists) must consult and appoint a suitable Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA). The RPA must be accredited and as such this will be an external appointment. The role of the RPA is to provide guidance on implementing the regulations, specifically

- the designation of areas
- systems of work to restrict exposure
- risk assessments
- contingency plans and
- quality assurance programmes.

IRMER The intention of these regulations is to restrict doses to patients from medical exposures. Employers carrying out medical exposures are required to consult a Medical Physics Expert (MPE). The MPE provides advice on the measurement and optimisation of patient dose and quality assurance procedures.

Why Choose the Radiation Protection Division of the Health Protection Agency?

The Dental X-ray Protection Services (DXPS) of the HPA Radiation Protection Division is the foremost point of reference in the UK for radiation protection in dentistry. It has been influential in setting national standards.

DXPS has provided independent advice and a comprehensive range of services to the dental community for more than 30 years.

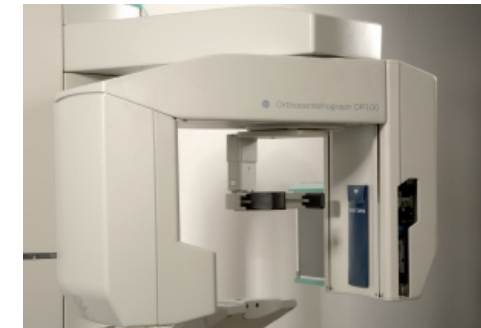
The HPA Radiation Protection Division has been recognised as an RPA Body by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

All advice is provided via a team of individually certificated RPAs, who are also suitably qualified and experienced to act as an MPE.



X-ray Equipment Assessments

All conventional X-ray equipment must be tested at least every three years. DXPS postal test packs can be used to check intra-oral and panoramic X-ray sets. The postal packs provide a quick, non disruptive and cost effective method of testing. However, if required a member of staff can visit the practice. Cephalometric equipment can only be tested by means of a visit. For specialist practices using cone beam computed tomography (cbct) equipment annual testing is recommended and an on-site visit is always necessary.



What Our Service Offers

DXPS offers a comprehensive package to help dental practices comply with radiation protection legislation. The package, which is provided on a contractual basis includes

- Radiation Protection (RP) file
- appointment of an RPA
- appointment of an MPE
- quality assurance programme
- processing test object
- X-ray equipment performance assessments and reports.

The key feature of the Service is the RP file. It is a working document designed to guide the practice through the requirements of IRR99 and IRMER and the decision making processes involved. The RP file supports direct contact with **you** and **your** nominated RPA.

On-going advice throughout the contract period will be provided by written reports, telephone or email on at least an annual basis.

In addition, **your** RPA will be available to answer any questions relating to radiation safety issues and provide assistance in the event of an incident or emergency.