

# Notification codes, categories and criteria

Use these codes when you report an IR(ME)R incident.

Accidental exposure

Notification code	Exposure category	Criteria for notification
1 (England only)	All modalities including therapy	3 mSv effective dose or above (adult)  1 mSv effective dose or above (child) (c)

Notification code	Exposure category	Criteria for notification
1 (Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales)	All modalities including therapy	All, regardless of dose

These notification criteria apply to the total exposure from the incident, including any intended component plus over-exposure and/or necessary repeat exposures. Where a multiplication factor is specified, this is defined as **the total dose from the incident divided by the intended dose**.

Where the exposure is not easily estimated in mSv or the dose unit is not specified, you may apply an alternative recognised unit and specify this in the notification.

## Unintended exposure

All modalities including nuclear medicine and radiotherapy imaging

Notification code	Exposure category	Criteria for notification
2.1	Intended dose less than 0.3mSv	3mSv or above (adult) 1mSv or above (child)

Notification code	Exposure category	Criteria for notification
2.2	Intended dose between 0.3mSv and 2.5mSv	10 or more times than intended
2.3	Intended dose between 2.5mSv and 10mSv	25mSv or above
2.4	Intended dose more than 10mSv	2.5 or more times than intended.
3	Interventional/cardiology	<p>Any unintended exposure resulting in observable tissue reactions, including but not limited to procedural failures or equipment malfunctions.</p> <p><a href="#">See additional guidance from the ICRP (International Commission on Radiological Protection)</a></p>

Notification code	Exposure category	Criteria for notification
4.1	Radiotherapy planning scans	If a planning scan needs to be repeated twice to obtain an appropriate dataset (3 scans in total, including the intended scan).
4.2a	Radiotherapy treatment verification images	<p>Set-up error and/or hardware or software failure leads to 3 or more imaging exposures in a single fraction (including the intended image, 3 images in total).</p> <p><b>This applies to all radiotherapy treatment regimes, including radical short course fractionation (defined as 10 fractions or less).</b></p>

Notification code	Exposure category	Criteria for notification
4.2b	Radiotherapy treatment verification images	<p>When the number of additional imaging exposures is 50% greater than intended over the course of treatment as a result of <b>protocol failure</b>.</p> <p><b>This applies to all radiotherapy treatment regimes, including radical short course fractionation (defined as 10 fractions or less).</b></p>
4.2c	Radiotherapy treatment verification images	<p>When the number of additional imaging exposures is 50% greater than intended over the course of treatment as a result of <b>thematic hardware or software failure</b>.</p> <p><b>This applies to all radiotherapy treatment regimes, including radical short course fractionation (defined as 10 fractions or less).</b></p>

Notification code	Exposure category	Criteria for notification
5	Foetal All modalities	Where there is an unintended foetal exposure <b>AND</b> the resultant foetal dose is <b>10mGy</b> or more.
6	Breast feeding infant Nuclear medicine only	Where there has been a failure in procedure <b>AND</b> the resultant infant effective dose is 1 mSv or more.
7	Incorrect radiopharmaceutical	Any administration of the incorrect radiopharmaceutical to a patient, regardless of dose.

Radiotherapy delivered dose (including brachytherapy)

Notification code	Exposure category	Criteria for notification
8.1	Therapy over-exposure	Delivered dose to the planned treatment volume or organs at risk is 1.1 or more times (whole course) or 1.2 or more times (any fraction) the intended dose.
8.2	Therapy under-exposure	<p>Delivered dose to the planned treatment volume is 0.9 or less times the intended dose (whole course).</p> <p><b>This excludes where the under-exposure to the target volume is a result of a geographical miss, which is reportable under either 9.1 or 9.2.</b></p>

Radiotherapy geographical miss (including brachytherapy)

Notification code	Exposure category	Criteria for notification
9.1	Total	All total geographical misses, even for a single fraction or significant part thereof.
9.2	Partial	<p>Where the miss exceeds 2.5 times the locally defined error margin AND the guideline dose factors (codes 8.1 and 8.2) for the planning target volume or organs at risk are exceeded.</p> <p><b>A surrogate for the locally defined error margin might be a displacement of 2.5 times the local imaging action level for specific anatomical site and treatment intent.</b></p>

Nuclear medicine therapy



Notification code	Exposure category	Criteria for notification
10.1	Selective internal radiation therapy	Delivered activity is outside +/- 20% of the prescribed activity.
10.2	All other nuclear medicine therapies	Delivered activity is outside +/- 10% of the prescribed activity.

## Complementary notification codes

For these codes, you need to add the relevant suffix code 1 to 10. As well as notification codes 1 to 10. For example:

- M1 (accidental exposure of more than one individual within the same incident or theme)
- M2.1 (unintended exposure of more than one individual within the same incident or theme)

Notification code	Exposure category	Criteria for notification
M	Multiple patients exposed within the same incident or theme. (plus relevant suffix code 1 to 10)	<p>A theme has been identified over a number of incidents.</p> <p>A single incident has involved multiple individuals.</p> <p>A separate, but similar incident has been identified that affects more than one individual.</p>

Notification code	Exposure category
E	Equipment fault exposure (plus relevant suffix code 1 to 9)
V	Voluntary notification (plus relevant suffix code 1 to 9)

Notification code	Exposure category
C	Clinically significant event (plus relevant suffix code 1 to 9)

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