



South African Association
of
Physicists in Medicine and Biology



South African
Medical Physics Society



JOINT POSITION STATEMENT ON THE USE AND OPERATION OF C-ARM FLUOROSCOPY UNITS IN OPERATING THEATRES AND CARDIAC CATHERISATION AND FLUOROSCOPY SUITES

Radiographers are responsible for ensuring that every ionising radiation exposure is justified and authorised. They must also ensure that exposures are optimised so that the radiation dose to every patient is as low as reasonably achievable. These functions are performed in a multidisciplinary team context and require effective communications among all stakeholders.^[1-2] It is important that X-ray equipment (i.e. ionising radiation equipment) used in operating theatres is operated correctly within the South African legislative framework.

The *Code of practice for users of medical X-ray equipment* states that operators of C-arm units **MUST BE** radiographers or radiologists. No other healthcare professional is currently permitted, by law, to operate these units.^[3] This is underscored in the 2022 South African Health Products Regulatory Authority guidelines associated with the code of practice for users of medical X-ray equipment.^[4] There is an ethico-legal obligation imposed on licence holders of X-ray equipment to ensure that the equipment is operated and maintained by competent and appropriately trained personnel who are registered radiation workers as outlined in the code above, and in the legislation.^[5]

REFERENCES

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