MEDICAL PHYSICS
PROCEDURE

RESEARCH INVOLVING IONISING RADIATION

Staff this document applies to:

- Anyone involved with research where ionising radiation may be used

Related Austin Health policies, procedures or guidelines:

Research Policy

Radiation Management Plan

Purpose:

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the processes **before** and **after** submitting a research project involving ionising radiation to Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).

Austin Health must comply with conditions listed in its Radiation Management Licence with regard to procuring, arranging or conducting research involving the irradiation of persons. The licence holder must meet the requirements set out under the "Code of Practice for the Exposure of Humans to Ionising Radiation for Research Purposes (2005)" published by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency and inform the Department of Health's Radiation Team.

All researchers should be familiar with the "Code of Practice for the Exposure of Humans to Ionising Radiation for Research Purposes (2005)" published by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency.

Medical Physicist Radiation Research Assessment Report (MPR)

Only an approved Medical Physicist can provide a MPR for research project projects involving ionising radiation. At Austin Health this is the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) and the Department of Medical Physics. rso@austin.org.au.

The Principal Investigator and project co-coordinator will need to decide which procedures in their project are considered "Standard Care" and "Additional to Standard Care" and the frequency of these procedures. Complete the Medical Physics Risk Assessment Interventional, Diagnostic & Nuclear Medicine Procedures Supporting Information.

This information will inform the Medical Physicist on how to assess the radiation dose and provide a report and additional information for the Participant Information and Consent Form (PICF).

Process:

1. Provide required documents to Medical Physicist to obtain MPR via email: rso@austin.org.au (refer to flowchart 1)
2. Revise PICF with radiation risk statement provided in MPR. The PICF should not contain any other radiation risk or contrary information.
3. Obtain Ethics approval.

OPPIC Document ID: 14387 **Date of last major update: 12/11/2024** **Review Date:** 12/11/2027

4. Send required documents to, Austin Health Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) for site approval; and if necessary, the RSO (or delegate) will complete Department of Health (DH) Victoria notification.
5. You **cannot** commence a research project until site approval has been obtained by the Austin Health RSO (or delegate); and when relevant DH notification has been completed.

.Notifying the DHHS

The following documents are required to notify DH:

- Ethics approval letter
- PICF final version
- Completed all sections and Appendix 1.7 of the Medical Physics Risk Assessment Interventional, Diagnostic & Nuclear Medicine Procedures Supporting Information with particular attention to:
    - The reasons why it is necessary to expose research participants to ionizing radiation for the purpose of the research;
    - The justification for the radiation exposure particularly if the radiation dose exceeds the dose constraints.

NB. The health regulator performs periodic audits of the HREC process and selected research projects involving ionising radiation. Compliance with this procedure ensured compliance with the relevant Code of Practice and Austin Health Radiation Management Licence conditions.

Document Author/Contributors:

Radiation Safety Officer 2024

Legislation/References/Supporting Documents:

1. Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety agency. Code of Practice Exposure of human Ionizing Radiation for Research Purposes (2005).

2. Radiation Safety Section, Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, Standard Radiation Risk Statements, April 2015.

Endorsed by:

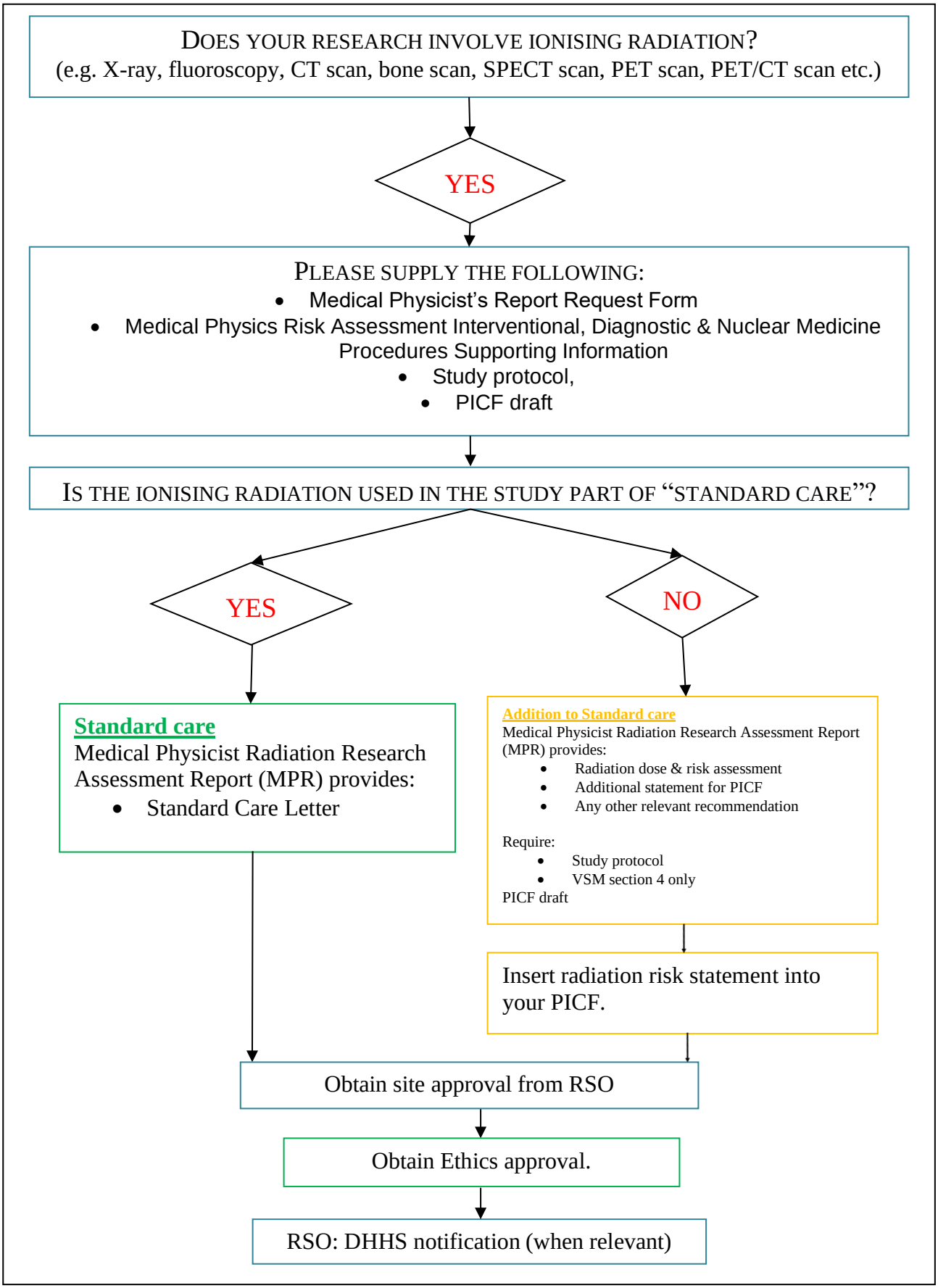
Radiation Safety Committee

Human Research Ethics Committee

Document Owner /Person Responsible for Document:

Radiation Safety Officer

Flowchart 1 – Does your research involve ionising radiation?



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