



NATIONAL PREGNANCY POLICY

Scope

This policy is employed when referring a patient of childbearing age (12-55years old) for Medical Radiation Exposure between the diaphragm and symphysis pubis and any radionuclide imaging procedures.

Who can refer patients?¹



A Registered Doctor



A Registered Dentist



Advanced Nurse Practitioner (X-ray)



A Registered Radiographer



A Registered Doctor in the UK, practising in NI

How to refer patients?

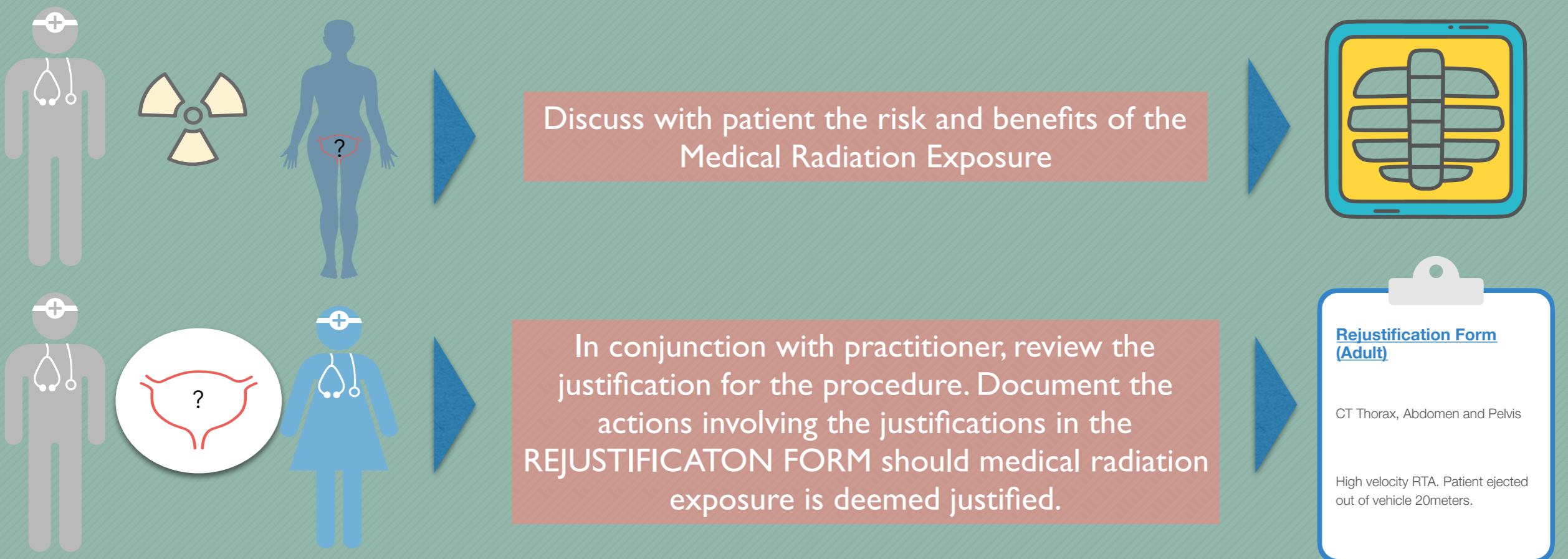


Ensure to provide justified clinical indication on your referral

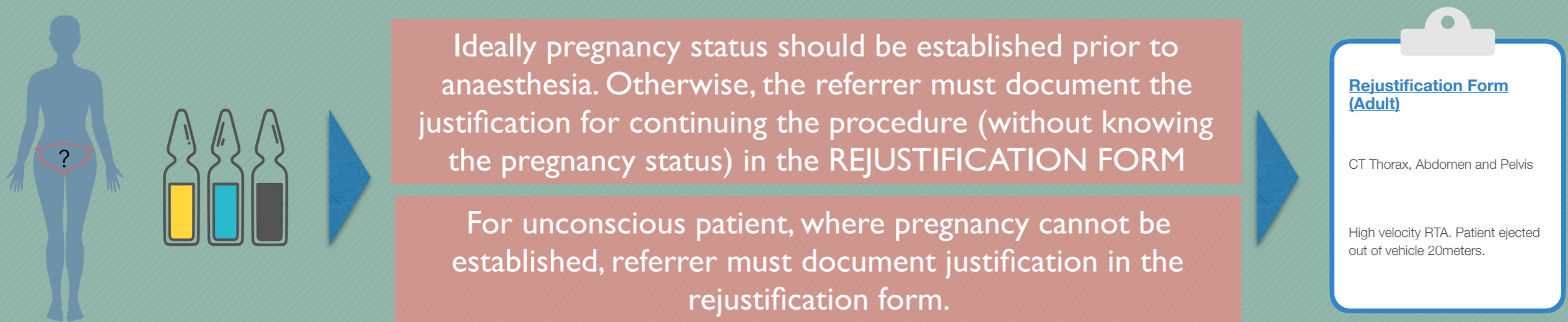


Enquire and provide pregnancy status and date of last menstrual period, document on referral

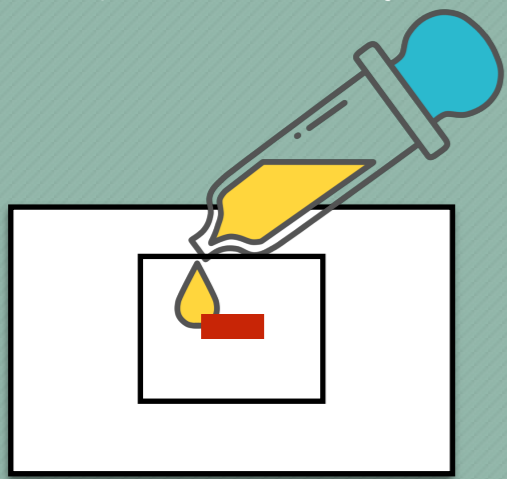
What if patient is pregnant, might be pregnant or cannot exclude the possibility of pregnancy?



What if patient is unconscious or under anaesthesia?



Further information



The policy does not advocate the use of or reliance on urine pregnancy test as it is unreliable in early pregnancy and false negatives are common.

Studies have established that pregnancy test packs sensitivity varies and dependent on how they can detect HCG and level of HCG.^{2,3}



A copy of the National Pregnancy Policy is available in Q-pulse

(1) SI 256 of 2018 European Union (Basic Safety Standards for Protection Against Dangers Arising from Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation) Regulation 2018

(2) Johnson S, Cushion M, Bond S, Godbert S, Pike J, 2015 Comparison of Analytical sensitivity and women's interpretation of home pregnancy test. Clin Chem Lab Med 2015; 53(3):391-402

(3) Gnoth C, Johnson S, 2014 Strips of Hope: Accuracy of Home Pregnancy Tests and New Developments. Geburtshilfe Frauenheilkd. 2014; 74(7):661-669