



NATIONAL DIAGNOSTIC REFERENCE LEVEL (DRL)

Review of general radiography, mammography and DXA scanning.

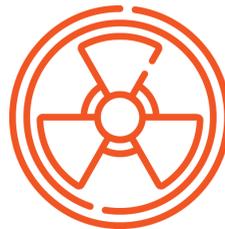
Diagnostic reference levels (DRLs)

represent typical levels of ionising radiation set for procedures, such as X-rays, in Ireland.



Report published

on updated DRLs in Ireland for general radiography and mammography. It has also produced standard dose levels for Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) for the first time in Ireland.



Radiation levels

that patients are being exposed to has reduced from 2-27% when compared to a 2010 HSE study.



Improved safety

for people using services when the amount of ionising radiation received by patients is reduced and the diagnostic integrity of images is still maintained.

Our survey in numbers:

137

the number of surveys issued to service providers by HIQA.

2-27%

reduction in radiation doses since 2010.

246%

increase in number of mammography procedures between 2010 and 2020.

**1.7
million**

number of annual procedures across all services surveyed in 2020.

Conclusion:

- ➔ Typical radiation doses for X-ray procedures have reduced in the last 10 years.
- ➔ Service providers can now compare the representative radiation doses they deliver to patients with national DRL figures and optimise exposure to ionising radiation where necessary.
- ➔ HIQA continues to regulate medical exposure to ionising radiation to promote a high-quality service and care for Irish patients.

