Protocol authorisation for non-medical referrers.

2ry care- spinal imaging-physiotherapy
Reference: RAD_RP_IRMER_NMR12
Version: 3
Date approved 05/06/2025
Review date: 05/06/2030

Protocol name   **Spinal Imaging - Physiotherapy**
Rationale   Patients with signs and symptoms of spinal musculoskeletal pathology, with or without neurological signs and symptoms where plain radiographic imaging, CT, MRI and Spinal injections would affect management.
Patients to whom protocol will apply   Those patients attending spinal neurosurgery or orthopaedic out-patient clinic for assessment of suitability for surgery.   Adult patients under the care of a community Clinical specialist physiotherapist.
Inclusion and exclusion criteria   *Exclusion:*   patients under 16 years of age   patients with implantable device   *Inclusion:* those patients in whom imaging would be used to   1. Aid diagnosis and differential diagnosis   2. Assist assessment of suitability for spinal surgery   3. Gain up to date images to assess progress/regression of pathology   4. Check post-operative position/condition of instrumentation following spinal fusion
Clinical assessments to be undertaken prior to decision to request imaging   **(please attach any flowcharts/other documents as necessary)**   History and clinical examination including focused MSK examination of spine, proximal joints and neurology.   Assessment of other investigations including blood results, prior imaging, baseline observations.
Additional documents attached?   No
Description of who will be making these assessments   Clinical specialist physiotherapist authorised and approved for this role by their lead clinician.
Details of imaging to be requested   X-ray, MRI, CT.
Form of words to be used on request   Non-medical requester and job role   Clinical details of patient   Exact details of spinal imaging required
Audit standards for annual recertification   Annual audit of referrals using audit tool found on LTHT radiology intranet pages.

NOTE – Version control managed in Q-Pulse, all printed documents must be checked against Q-Pulse version to ensure that it is current.