



THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGISTS

NHS

National Patient Safety Agency

Patient briefing



Notice

5 February 2007

Understanding NPSA advice

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) helps the NHS to provide safer healthcare for everyone. This information is about the advice the NPSA has given the NHS on making sure x-ray results are followed up and actioned.

Following-up x-ray and scan reports

When you have an x-ray or scan done, it is important that the doctor or other health professional that requested it acts on the results.

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) has advised the NHS and other healthcare organisations on ways to make sure that x-ray and scan reports are noted and followed up.

It is also important for patients to make sure that their doctor or other health professional has seen their image and report if appropriate, and have acted upon the results. You can help ensure this happens by:

- asking when you will be told about your results;
- asking how you will get your results;
- asking for details of who to contact if you do not hear anything;
- making sure that your contact details, and those of your next of kin, are accurate.

This advice is also relevant for other diagnostic tests.

About the NPSA

The NPSA promotes safer healthcare by collecting and analysing information about patient safety incidents from staff and patients, and through working with NHS organisations to promote an open and fair culture.

If you would like more information about the NPSA's work, visit our website at: **www.npsa.nhs.uk**