Radiation Safety Regulation 2010

I, Ian Graham Maynard, Director-General, Department of Health, using the powers conferred on the Chief Executive by the Radiation Safety Act 1999 and under the provisions of Schedule 6 of the Radiation Safety Regulation 2010, hereby

a) revoke the previous Diagnostic Radiography Protocol dated 30 November 2006 and
b) approve the attached Diagnostic Radiography Protocol in which a nurse practitioner, and in which a registered nurse, may request plain film diagnostic radiography under the conditions contained in this protocol.

Signed at Brisbane on this 09 JAN 2014 day of __________ 2014.

Ian Graham Maynard
Director-General
Department of Health
Diagnostic Radiography Protocol

1. Authorised Nurse

A registered nurse is authorised to request plain film diagnostic radiography (an Authorised Nurse) if:

1.1 the registered nurse is endorsed as a nurse practitioner by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, provided the conditions in section 2 of this Protocol are satisfied; or

1.2 the registered nurse has successfully completed a training course approved for this purpose by the Chief Executive and has successfully passed an assessment of practical competence approved for this purpose by the Chief Executive, provided the conditions in section 2 of this Protocol are satisfied.

2. Conditions

2.1 An Authorised Nurse must, every two years, undertake refresher training and assessment in radiation protection and diagnostic imaging pathways approved by the Chief Executive for this purpose and have the completion of this refresher training recorded in the register of Authorised Nurses kept by Radiation Health, a unit within the Department of Health.

2.2 An Authorised Nurse must undertake, and keep records of, his or her continued professional development in radiation protection and diagnostic imaging pathways/protocols relevant to the area in which the nurse requests plain film diagnostic radiography and remain credentialled to work in the area.

2.3 Requests for diagnostic radiography must be in line with the area for which the Authorised Nurse is credentialled.

2.4 An Authorised Nurse must ensure an adequate and accurate patient history and patient assessment is undertaken prior to requesting diagnostic imaging. All relevant history must be included in any imaging request.

2.5 An Authorised Nurse must consult with, or refer to, other health professionals when the patient's condition requires expertise beyond the nurse's own scope of competence; this should include but not be limited to any patient who cannot be adequately examined, a patient for whom pregnancy cannot be excluded, and paediatric patients.

2.6 A nurse practising in accordance with the provisions of this Diagnostic Radiography Protocol must be aware that practising within the Diagnostic Radiography Protocol does not relieve that nurse of the legal responsibility and accountability for that nurse's actions and may not provide immunity in a case of negligence.

2.7 The responsibility for formal reporting of diagnostic radiography remains with a radiologist.

Signed at Brisbane on this __________ day of __________ 2014.

Ian Graham Maynard
Director-General
Department of Health