BAMRR MRI Safety Week 2026

What is MRI Safety Week?

This week includes the anniversary of the tragic accident that resulted in the death of six-year-old boy, Michael Colombini from a projectile incident (oxygen cylinder) during an MRI scan in America on July 27th, 2001.

https://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=92745&page=1

To commemorate this, BAMRR will be producing safety and educational materials and collaborating with the British Institute of Radiology (BIR), International Society for MR Radiographers & Technologists (ISMRT), the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) and The Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) in sharing links.

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What is BAMRR focusing on for MRI Safety Week 2026?

Each day, BAMRR will produce MR safety and educational information from each of the letters below, so check our website daily….

MHRA Guidelines:

The **MHRA** (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) is the UK's government body that produce the “Safety Guidelines for Magnetic Resonance Imaging Equipment in clinical use”.

First published in 2014, the guidelines were updated in 2016, 2021 and 2022, with the latest edition (5th) due to be published ~ Summer 2026, following an extensive update by MR experts throughout the UK and Ireland

These outline the UK framework for best practice for the safe use and management of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment in a clinical setting within the UK. The guidelines also have some relevance in academic settings and to users of laboratory and veterinary MR equipment.

Adherence to the guidelines will aid in ensuring that users of MRI equipment comply with relevant legislation, namely:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 [1] and The Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 [2]
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 [3] and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 [4];
- The Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations 2016 [5] and the Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 [6];
- The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 [7] and the Control of Noise at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 [8].

MHRA Guidelines:

These guidelines also support compliance by ensuring MRI services are delivered safely and to an appropriate standard in Scotland, England Ireland and Wales.

The guidelines:

- Bring together different sources of advice, guidelines, legislation etc relevant to MR safety and provide a single source of advice on how that should be applied in the UK context.
- Bring to the attention of those involved with the clinical use of such equipment important matters requiring careful consideration before purchase and after installation of equipment.
- Be an introduction for those who are not familiar with this type of equipment and act as a reminder for those who are.
- Act as a reminder of the legislation and published guidance relating to this equipment.
- Draw the attention of the users to the guidance published by relevant organisations.
- Reflect current risks and hazards.
- Draw on the experience of MHRA and contributing organisations on the safe use of MRI equipment.

The current guidelines can be found at
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/601bd9dbe90e0711cb20c2d7/MRI_guidance_2021-4-03c.pdf

Please keep an eye out for the new updated version coming soon……

Thankyou to all the hard work from the team led by IPEM and the MHRA on this piece of work.

Risk Assessments in MRI:

A risk assessment is a primary management tool used to ensure the health and safety of staff, visitors and patients by using a systematic process of identifying hazards and evaluating any associated risks within a workplace, then implementing reasonable control measures to remove or reduce them [9].

RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX				
SEVERITY / PROBABILITY	Catastrophic (1)	Critical (2)	Marginal (3)	Negligible (4)
Frequent (A)	High	High	Serious	Medium
Probable (B)	High	High	Serious	Medium
Occasional (C)	High	Serious	Medium	Low
Remote (D)	Serious	Medium	Medium	Low
Improbable (E)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low
Eliminated (F)	Eliminated			

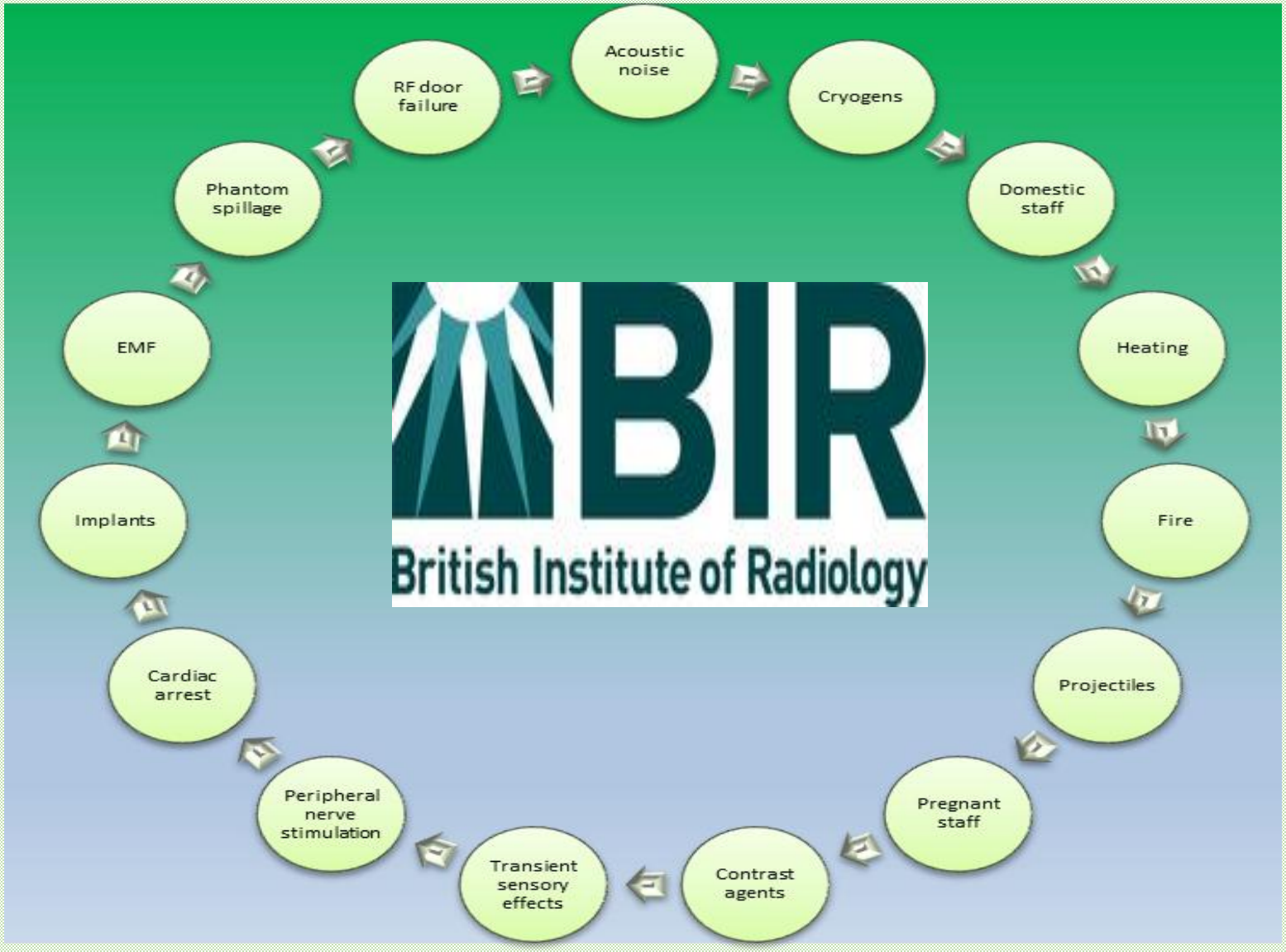
When completing a risk assessment, it is important to define some keywords:

- An **accident** is '*an unplanned event that results in loss*'
- A **hazard** is '*something that has the potential to cause harm*'
- A **risk** is '*the likelihood and the severity of a negative occurrence (injury, ill-health, damage, loss) resulting from a hazard.*'

Risk Assessments in MRI:

The British Institute of Radiology (BIR) has excellent templates for MRI

https://www.bir.org.uk/get-involved/special-interest-groups/bir-magnetic-resonance/risk-assessments.aspx



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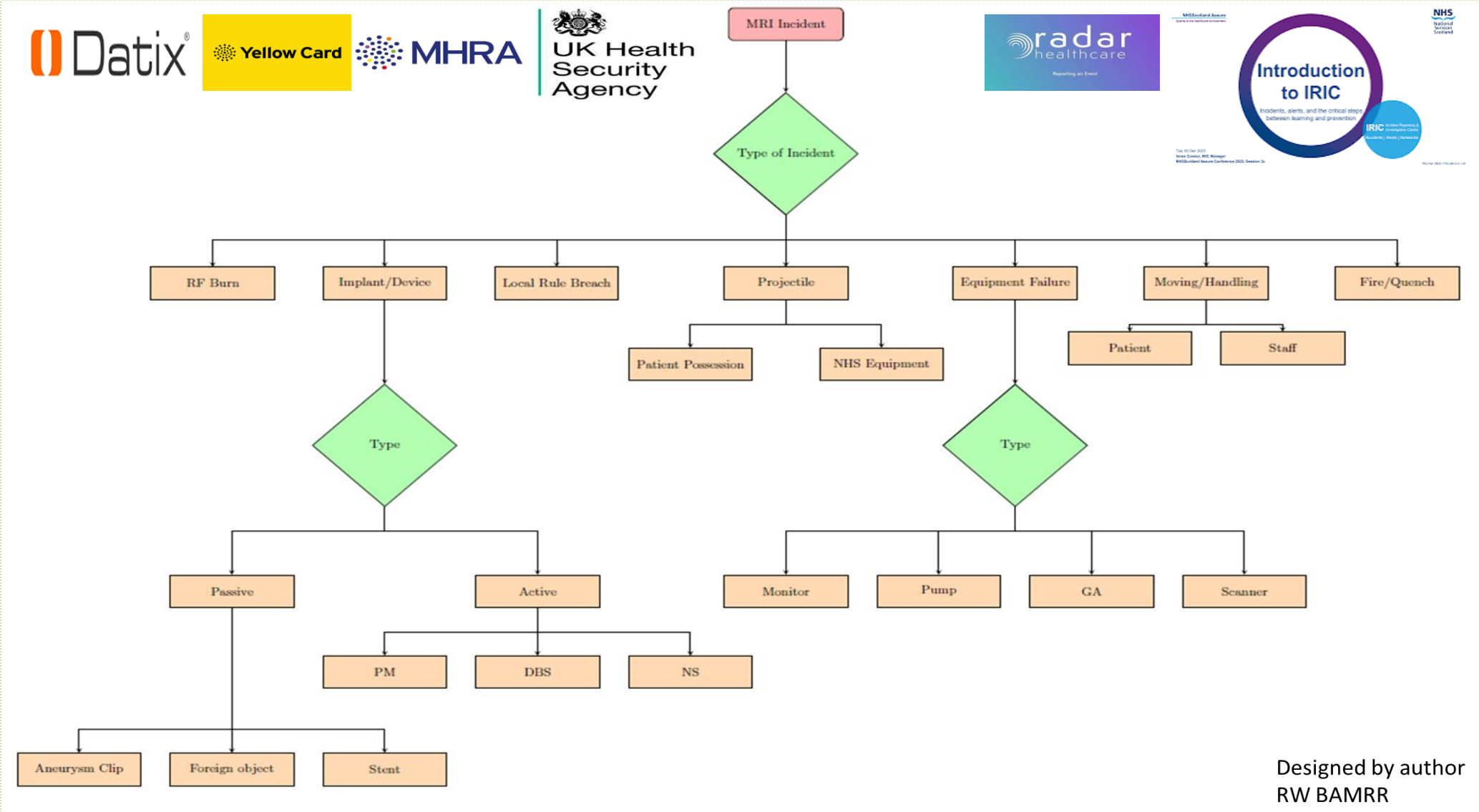
Incident Reporting in MRI:

These are potential incidents to report via your own departmental system (Datix, RADAR etc)
Also consider reporting to:
Yellow card
IRIC (Scotland only)
MHRA
National Taxonomy



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Incident Reporting in MRI:

National taxonomy:

The National Incident Learning System is designed to prioritise patient safety by supporting the MRI community in standardising the coding of incidents and near misses, to facilitate trend analyses and share learning at a local and national level.

The UK Health Security Agency's 'Medical Exposures Group' (MEG), aim to improve patient safety in MRI by encouraging us to engage with the National Incident Learning System.

"To receive notifications of new Safer Imaging publications, please sign up to https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHPA/subscribers/new?preferences=true and select the 'MEG Incident Learning System' topic."

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Hope you have enjoyed the materials from the letters **MRI** from Day 1.
Please join us tomorrow to find out about **SAFETY ….**

BAMRR are also pleased to direct you to what BIR, ISMRT and SCoR have produced for MRI Safety Week and encourage you to visit the MRI page for IPEM.

https://bir.org.uk/get-involved/special-interest-groups/bir-magnetic-resonance.aspx

https://www.ismrm.org/mr-safety-links/mr-safety-week-2026

https://www.sor.org/

https://www.ipem.ac.uk/resources/mri/

If you missed our materials from MR Safety Week from previous years, they are available on the BAMRR website https://www.bamrr.org/safety/