

**Bon Secours Health System, Inc.**  
 Richmond Region  
 St. Mary's Hospital  
 Policy/Procedure

Policy Manual: School of Medical Imaging  
 Section: Student/General

Title: Radiation Exposure and Repeat Radiographs

Policy No: 59I

Rev.: 8/2009

Areas Affected: Students

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### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

Student exposure to ionizing radiation for diagnostic purposes must be done **only** at the direction of a physician. Students found performing x-rays on themselves or classmates shall face disciplinary action; this may include dismissal from the program.

### ***Shielding & Radiation protection***

Students must shield **ALL** patients from unnecessary ionizing radiation to protect reproductive organs and/or bone marrow. Students are not to hold patients during an x-ray exposure unless in an emergency situation and as directed by the supervising technologist. If holding a patient is necessary, proper lead shielding (lead apron, lead gloves & thyroid shield) **MUST** be worn. The student must make every effort not to be in the direct beam area. Lead aprons and thyroid shields are to be used during all departmental and portable fluoroscopy examinations. The PMD (personal monitoring device) is to be worn on the collar, outside the apron. For all portable examinations, all students must wear a full lead apron and maintain a six (6) foot distance from the primary beam when making the exposure. Students must also provide a lead shield for the patient. All female patients are to be asked, "Is there any chance you could be pregnant?" A positive answer must be reported to the radiologist before proceeding with the examination. Failure to ask about pregnancy will result in disciplinary action. Failure to shield (unless shielding would endanger the patient) will result in disciplinary action. Students that perform a competency and do not shield during the exam or do not provide protection for themselves through use of lead aprons & PMD's, will receive a failing grade.

### **Personal monitoring device (PMD) & Due date**

All students shall be monitored for radiation exposure via the use of PMD's according to the procedures outlined in the Radiology Departmental Procedures Manual.

### **PERSONAL MONITORING DEVICES ARE TO BE WORN AT THE COLLAR LEVEL AND CANNOT BE WORN FOR EMPLOYMENT.**

- Students that lose or misplace their PMD must report the loss to the clinical coordinator as soon as possible.
- Students are not allowed in clinic without their PMD.
- The PMD is due by the due date (located on the device) in Clinical seminar.
- Failure to turn in PMD's on time will result in the student taking responsibility for returning it to St. Mary's Hospital as soon as possible and potential clinical grade reduction.
- Students that are absent from clinical seminar must turn in their PMD the first day back to school to St. Mary's Hospital.

**Radiation Protection/ Exposure**

Radiation exposure reports are available quarterly and monitored by the program Radiation Safety Officer (Gary Carlton). Any unusual readings will be evaluated and the student notified. Radiation exposure reports are permanently maintained by the Radiology Department.

**REPEAT IMAGES**

To promote the highest levels in quality patient care and radiation protection, unsatisfactory radiographs **SHALL BE REPEATED ONLY IN THE PRESENCE OF A QUALIFIED PRACTITIONER**, regardless of the student's level. Repeats must be recorded on the competency/repeat log with technologist initials.

**RESPONSIBLE PERSONS:** Program Faculty and Administration

**Approved by:**

Jody D. Crane, M.A.Ed., RT(R) (BD)

Program Director

August 18, 2009

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Signature\_\_\_\_\_  
Title\_\_\_\_\_  
Date**Approval History:**

Committees and Dates:

Faculty and administrative review in

4/2002, 8/2003, 8/2004, 6/2005, 6/2006, 7/2007, 8/2008, 8/2009

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