

POLICY C8- Radiation Safety

Policy Name: *Radiation Safety*
Policy Category & Number: *Clinical, C8*
Person Responsible: *Education Experience Clinical Program
Coordinator & School Radiation Safety Officer*
Approved by: *Dean, School of Medical Imaging*
Effective Date: *4-13-2020*
Version: *1.0*
Policy Status: *Approved*

- I. Policy: Student exposure to ionizing radiation is limited to diagnostic purposes only at the direction of a physician; students are not to perform x-rays on themselves, classmates, or family members.
- II. Purpose: To promote the highest levels in quality patient care and radiation protection to students, patients, and others. Students are expected to follow the ALARA concept. Students will be monitored for radiation exposure via use of Personnel Monitoring Devices (PMD's).

III. Scope: Shielding, Radiation Protection, Repeat Radiographs & PMD's:
Shielding:

- Students must shield **ALL** patients from unnecessary ionizing radiation to protect reproductive organs and/or bone marrow.

Failure to shield:

- Unless shielding would endanger the patient or obscure pertinent anatomy, failure to shield will result in disciplinary action.
- Students that perform a competency without shielding during the exam or fail to provide protection for themselves, patient, or others through use of lead aprons, short exposure time, distance & PMD's, will receive a failing grade.

Radiation Protection:

- Students are not to hold patients or an image receptor during an x-ray exposure.
- If a patient requires assistance during an x-ray examination to hold still, the person assisting the patient needs to be provided a lead shield.
- Lead aprons and thyroid shields are to be used during all departmental and portable fluoroscopy examinations.
- Students are to wear a lead apron regardless of the distance from primary beam.

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- For all portable examinations, **2 lead aprons must be provided**, one apron for the student and one apron for the patient. All students must wear a full lead apron and maintain a six (6) foot distance from the primary beam when making the exposure.
- When wearing a lead apron, the Personnel Monitoring Device (PMD) is to be worn on the collar, outside the apron.
- All females (patients, caregivers and/or parents) of child bearing age, are to be asked:
 - o "Is there any chance you could be pregnant, trying to get pregnant or potentially pregnant?" prior to producing radiation.
 - o A positive response or an unsure answer requires the student to report the response to a qualified Radiographer.

Repeat Radiographs:

- Unsatisfactory radiographs SHALL BE REPEATED ONLY IN THE PRESENCE OF A QUALIFIED RADIOGRAPHER, regardless of the student's level. Repeats must be documented in Trajecsys with acknowledgement from a Qualified Radiographer.

Personnel Monitoring Devices:

- PMD's 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 Education Experience Program Coordinator and the School Radiation Safety Officer 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 PMDs on time will result in the student taking responsibility for returning it to the School Radiation Safety Officer 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 the School Radiation Safety Officer.

Radiation Dosimeter Reports: Radiation Dosimetry reports are available quarterly and monitored by the School Radiation Safety Officer. Any unusual readings will be evaluated and the student notified. Radiation Dosimeter reports are permanently maintained by St. Mary's Hospital Radiology Department.

IV. Sanctions:

Disciplinary sanctions occur in the following sequence:

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1. The first infraction will result in a written letter of warning that shall be provided to the student and filed in the student's permanent record.
 2. A second infraction of the same or different type will result in a two-day suspension. Any student who has been suspended shall remain on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the student's enrollment at the School.
 3. Following a suspension, any additional infractions (regardless of the infraction) warranting discipline will result in a case review by the Dean. Following the case review the student may be dismissed from the program or further disciplinary action may be warranted. If the student is allowed to continue in the program, that student shall remain on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the program. Any further infractions will result in immediate dismissal.
- V. Disclaimers: Nothing in this policy creates a contractual relationship between Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital School of Medical Imaging (SOMI) and any party. SOMI, in its sole discretions, reserves the right to amend, terminate or discontinue this policy at any time, with or without advance notice.

VI. Version Control:

Version	Date	Prepared by:	Approved by:
1.0	4/13/2020	Jody D. Crane	