



RADIATION SAFETY PREGNANCY POLICY

Radiation Safety Office

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1. POLICY OBJECTIVE

This policy is written to communicate how pregnant women exposed to radiation from university licensed radioactive materials or registered X-ray equipment can declare their pregnancy, for occupationally exposed women, or report their pregnancy if the woman is a patient undergoing a medical diagnostic X-ray procedure prescribed by a physician or authorized in an approved clinical trial.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

Women who are exposed to radiation because of their work with radiation that emanates from university licensed or registered sources of radiation (occupationally exposed) shall, if they desire to declare their pregnancy, print and complete the “Declaration of Pregnancy Form” posted on the Radiation Safety Office website. Completed forms should be submitted to Radiation Safety staff in confidence. Radiation Safety shall ensure that required training programs to access restricted areas (those areas posted at their entrances with signs stating “Caution – Radioactive Material” or “Caution – Radiation Area”) or to operate X-ray equipment include information about how a woman can declare her pregnancy if desired.

The University’s Radiation Safety Officer shall meet individually, in confidence, with each declared pregnant woman and review their work with radiation, discuss potential methods to reduce dose to levels as low as reasonably achievable, discuss the reduced dose limits for occupationally exposed declared pregnant women including the requirement to ensure doses are received uniformly over the entire gestational period, and provide information to the declared pregnant woman as requested (including, for example, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulatory guides about pregnancy).

Women who are exposed to X-ray radiation from university registered medical diagnostic X-ray machines shall inform the X-ray technician performing the procedure if they are pregnant. Radiation Safety staff shall ensure that required pregnancy warnings are posted, legible and clearly visible to patients inside university medical diagnostic X-ray rooms at initial startup and annually during inspections. Women undergoing a medical diagnostic X-ray procedure shall not be exposed to the X-ray beam, if they declare that they are pregnant, until their physician prescribing the procedure has been notified and authorizes the procedure. Women undergoing a medical diagnostic X-ray procedure as part of an IRB approved clinical trial shall not be exposed to the X-ray beam, if they declare that they are pregnant, until the woman has been notified of the radiation dose received as determined during the IRB approval process and the woman accepts the procedure in the IRB approved informed consent.