

## Suggested Radiation Safety Procedures For use of X-Ray during a Bone Densitometry Procedure

1. No x-ray exposure will be permitted on any patient unless ordered in writing or verbally by a physician.

*Note: If the practice includes physician assistants and/or nurse practitioners, routine or standing orders must be included in the protocols.*

2. The bone densitometer unit shall be operated only by individuals trained in its safe operation. Documentation of operator training shall be available for review.
3. Each radiation machine will be labeled in a conspicuous manner which cautions individuals that radiation is produced when it is energized.
4. Only individuals required for the exam shall be in the x-ray room during exposures.
5. The operator will be positioned a minimum of six (6) feet away from the source when any exposure is being made.
6. Visual and audible contact with the patient will be maintained at all times.
7. Film badges are not required for the operators due to inherently low scatter levels of the bone densitometer.
8. Neither the tube housing nor the collimator shall be hand held during an exposure.
9. Any person performing a bone densitometry procedure shall follow the examination procedure as established by that facility. This procedure shall include at a minimum: each patient position, tube orientation, and exposure factors required to complete the examination successfully.
10. The physician shall be informed of any pregnant patients that an examination is ordered on. At this point, the physician will decide if the x-ray examination will be performed, modified, delayed, or canceled.