

Radiation Protection Program

1. Review and document radiographic technique settings, update technique charts as necessary. Technique charts for medical facilities should include precise settings for each body part measured in centimeters.
2. Review standard operating procedures with x-ray staff. Confirm that each employee has read and comprehended the radiation safety procedures prior to operating the equipment.
3. Review personnel monitoring records if provided.
4. Evaluate the condition of the protective equipment, i.e., lead aprons, lead gloves, gonadal shields, etc.
5. Check required employee postings.
6. Document employee training.

Safety Procedures in Medical Practices

1. Expose patients to x-rays only when ordered, in writing or verbally, by a physician. Routine or standing orders are acceptable if approved by the physician.
2. The x-ray machine operator stands behind a protective barrier when any x-ray exposure is made.
3. Use mechanical positioning aids, such as angled sponges, to hold patients in position without the aid of another person.
4. Other people hold patients during emergencies. No one person is used as the designated holder in a facility.
5. Whenever holding a patient is necessary, the person holding the patient wears a lead apron and lead gloves of at least 0.25mm lead equivalency.
6. No one other than the patient is in the x-ray room during any x-ray exposure, unless another person is necessary to perform the examination.
7. Everyone performing an x-ray examination follows the facility's established examination procedure. This procedure includes, at a minimum, each patient position, film and tube orientations, and exposure factors required to successfully complete the examination.
8. Inform the physician of any pregnant patients for whom x-ray examinations have been ordered. At that point, the physician decides if the x-ray examination will be preformed, modified, delayed or cancelled.

***All Operators read and sign once a year.**