

**SUGGESTED RADIATION SAFETY PROCEDURES  
FOR USE OF X-RAY IN A DENTAL PRACTICE**

1. No x-ray exposure will be permitted of any patient unless ordered directly or verbally by a practitioner of the dental arts. Routine standing orders are acceptable if approved by the practitioner.
2. The clinician shall position the x-ray tube and the patient so that the x-ray beam will not be pointed at the clinician when the exposure is being made.
3. The clinician will stand behind a protective barrier or a minimum of six feet away from the patient when any x-ray exposure is being made.
4. No clinician shall hold a film in the patient's mouth, or the x-ray tube during any x-ray exposure.
5. Patients will be shielded with a lead apron whenever possible during x-ray exposures.
6. No one other than the patient, shall be allowed in the room during x-ray exposures.
7. All x-ray films will be processed either manually by the time temperature method or in a properly maintained automatic processor.
8. All darkrooms will be lightproof and if safelights are present, they must emit light only in the wavelengths that the films used are not sensitive to.
9. The dentist shall be informed of any pregnant patients that x-ray examinations are ordered on. At this point the dentist will decide if the x-ray examination will be performed, modified, delayed, or cancelled.