

# KINGSTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

## IMAGING SERVICES DEPARTMENT MANUAL

**Subject:** Pregnant X-ray Workers & Nursing Mothers **Number:** 17-061

**Prepared by:** Director, Imaging Services

**Page:** 1 of 2

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### PREAMBLE

Kingston General Hospital and Imaging Services is committed to taking every reasonable precaution, as is practical, to maintain radiation exposure to staff, students, and the public to ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable). Imaging Services Quality Assurance Program is designated to keep radiation exposures to ALARA by:

1. Management control over work practices
2. Personal qualification and training
3. Control of occupational and public exposure to radiation
4. Planning for emergency situations

### PURPOSE

As per the Occupational Health , X-ray Safety, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 861:

#### Section 9.

(1) An employer who employs a person as an X-ray worker shall, at the time that employment begins,

- (a) inform the worker in writing that the worker is employed as an X-ray worker;
- (b) inform the worker of the limits imposed by subsection 10 (1) on the dose equivalent that may be received by the worker; and
- (c) if the worker is female, inform her of the dose equivalent limit mentioned in subsection 10 (2) applicable to a pregnant X-ray worker.

(2) An employer shall maintain a list of all X-ray workers in the employment of the employer. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 861, s.9.

#### Section 10.

(1) The dose equivalent received or that may be received by a worker shall be as low as is reasonably achievable, and in any case,

- (a) an X-ray worker shall not receive a dose equivalent in excess of the annual limits set out in Column 3 of the Schedule; and
- (b) a worker who is not an X-ray worker shall not receive a dose equivalent in excess of the annual limits set out in Column 4 of the Schedule.

(2) Despite subsection (1), an employer shall take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that the mean dose equivalent received by the abdomen of a pregnant X-ray worker does not exceed 5 millisieverts during the pregnancy. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 861, s. 10.

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### PROCEDURES

#### Declared Pregnancy/Breastfeeding Mothers

1. When an employee wishes the hospital to be involved in protecting her fetus under the 5 mSv. dose guideline, she must declare her actual, suspected, or planned pregnancy to her supervisor and the Radiation Protection Officer or delegate. A safety conference will be scheduled with the employee and the Radiation Protection Officer or delegate.
2. Such safety conferences are available to any other employee upon request. The conference will be with the Radiation Protection Officer or the designee. Safety aspects of the employee's work will be discussed and an opportunity for questions provided. The worker's radiation monitoring program, including any past dose records, and the current occupational potential for radiation exposure will be reviewed.

#### Fetal Dose Control Procedures

1. The hospital's responsibility to protect the embryo/fetus under the 5 mSv. dose guideline begins only when the employee declares her condition to her supervisor and the Radiation Protection Officer or delegate. Control of the fetal dose will be carried out with full cooperation of the employee. Work assignment changes may be initiated if necessary.
2. In conjunction with the 5 mSv. fetal dose guideline limit, the As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) radiation protection philosophy will be applied to maintain any dose to as low as practicable levels.
3. Pregnant radiation workers shall not participate in the following duties:
  - a. In-room X-ray procedures or portable X-ray work, **without** adequate shielding.
  - b. Other specific higher dose potential duties as determined on a case basis by the Radiation Protection Officer or delegate.
4. All radiation workers have an individual responsibility for adhering to the Kingston General Hospital and Imaging Services' policies and procedures.

Authorizing Signature:

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Department Head