

## **PREGNANCY POLICY**

Pregnant Radiography technology students may continue enrollment in Clinical Education courses. It is the individual student's responsibility to read and adhere to the guidelines set forth in this policy for radiation protection of the embryo-fetus.

Definition of a declared pregnant Radiography Technology student:

A female student who has voluntarily informed her clinical coordinator, in writing, of her pregnancy. Adopted by the JRCERT, 4/99Rad

1. It is the prerogative of any student to notify the Clinical Coordinator or Program Director or Radiation Safety Officer of any suspected condition or known pregnancy. After notification, the student will be advised of additional protective measures to be taken.
2. The Radiation Safety Officer or Program Director will counsel the declared pregnant student Technologist concerning the effects of exposure of ionizing radiation in utero and the additional protective measures necessary to protect the embryo-fetus.
3. The declared pregnant student Technologist will acknowledge by signature, an understanding of the instructions received during the counseling session regarding the mutual responsibilities for protection of the embryo-fetus during her pregnancy.
4. In agreement with the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) Report No. 116, the embryo-fetus is regarded as a separate entity, distinct from the woman who is a radiation worker and is not subject to the occupational limits, but rather to lower limits that are necessary for its adequate protection.

5. In compliance with NCRP Report No. 116, NCRP Report No. 105 and the Texas Regulation for Control of Radiation part 21.208, Texas Department of State Health Services, the total dose equivalent limit (excluding medical exposure) to an embryo-fetus during the entire pregnancy, due to occupational exposure of a declared pregnant woman, shall not exceed .5 rem (5 mSv). Once a pregnancy becomes known, exposure of the embryo-fetus shall be no greater than .05 rem (0.5 mSv) in any month (excluding medical and natural background radiation).
6. In compliance with NCRP Report No. 105, the declared pregnant radiography student will be provided a second personnel monitor to insure that the dose equivalent to the embryo-fetus does not exceed 0.05 rem (0.5 mSv) in a month. This monitor should be worn at the waist level and under any protective apron at all times while in the clinical education setting. The second monitor for the embryo-fetus should not be mixed up with the collar monitor worn for the declared pregnant student Technologist.
7. Upon request of the declared pregnant Radiography Technology Student, the Program Director or the Clinical Coordinator will modify the clinical education rotation schedules to rotate the student through low radiation areas, specifically during the first trimester, to provide additional radiation protection for the embryo-fetus.
8. It is not recommended that the declared pregnant Radiography Technology Student perform radiographic procedures on patients receiving therapy with intracavity or interstitial sources of radiation. If fluoroscopy or mobile radiography procedures are performed, the pregnant Radiography Student must wear an apron (wrap-around style preferred) that covers the front and back with a minimum of 0.5 mm lead equivalent. (Reference: Radiologic Science for Technologists, by Stewart C. Bushong, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2020)
9. The monthly radiation monitoring exposure report, the NCRP Reports, and the Texas Regulation for control of Radiation is available for viewing in the offices of the Program Director or the Radiation Safety Officer, Center for Health Professions (CHP), Room 130Q.
10. The declared pregnant Radiography Technology Student may resume training at the earliest possible semester after delivery or birth of the baby. All other Clinical Education competencies and course requirements are expected to be accomplished.
11. The declared pregnant Radiography Technology Student may undeclared their pregnancy at any time during the program. The student may resume all clinical education activities thereafter.

## DECLARED PREGNANCY POLICY STATEMENT BY STUDENT

I verify by my signature below that:

- I have voluntarily notified the St. Philip's College, Radiography Program Director of my pregnancy.
- I have been advised by the Program Director or Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) of the protective measures, and risks associated with radiation exposure to the fetus.
- I have received an additional dosimeter that I am wearing at waist level to monitor the radiation dose to the fetus.
- I understand by wearing a 0.5 mm lead equivalent protective apron, the dosage to the abdomen and pelvis in general can be reduced substantially.
- I have had the opportunity to discuss questions concerning radiation safety during my pregnancy with the Program Director or RSO. I understand that in the event additional questions may arise. I will consult with the RSO/program director.

I \_\_\_\_\_ do understand the risks involved to the fetus and myself during my pregnancy in regard to pregnancy and related radiation safety.

I \_\_\_\_\_ elect to remain in the Program and adhere to the requirements as stated in the handbook.

I \_\_\_\_\_ do understand the risks involved to the fetus and myself during my pregnancy in regard to pregnancy related radiation safety.

I ELECT / DO NOT ELECT to remain in the Program.

A leave of absence from the Program may be granted. I understand my return is subject to space availability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Radiation Safety Officer's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Director's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## UNDECLARED PREGNANCY POLICY STATEMENT BY STUDENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_ verify by my signature below that I wish to voluntarily undeclare  
Print name above

my Pregnancy as of this date \_\_\_\_\_. I wish to resume my normal clinical education activities  
(Date)  
without modifications.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date