CENTRAL IOWA HEALTHCARE
Marshalltown, Iowa

CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION LABORATORY POLICY & PROCEDURES

Policy Number: CL-02

Subject: Radiation Safety for the Cardiac Cath Lab Personnel

Policy: To minimize exposure of radiation to personnel the following precautions will be taken:

Additional Information:

I. During all x-ray procedures, operators and other personnel should be instructed to remain in a specified safe area during the exposure.
   A. All individuals who must remain in the room during a fluoroscopic examination, except the patient, shall be protected by shielding, such as aprons, suspended lead shields, portable lead walls, and thyroid collars, having a lead equivalent of at least 0.5mm (front) and 0.25mm (back). Door between procedure room and hallway shall be closed during all radiographic exposures.
   B. Fluoroscopy exposures should only be initiated by trained personnel under the supervision of Radiologist/Cardiologist.
   C. All Cardiac Cath Lab Personnel will assume responsibility for fluoroscopy machine between procedures and when prepping patient. Radiation block will be initiated before and after cases.
   D. The procedure monitor will document fluoroscopy time and mGy.
   E. Personnel may not expose a patient to radiation, under fluoro, unless under supervision of physician per IDPH regulations.

II. Personnel Monitoring is required for occupationally exposed persons.
   A. If it is likely that the entire body may be exposed uniformly, the monitoring device or Thermoluminescent dosimeter should be worn on the outside of the lead apron.
   B. If a single portion of the body must be monitored and it is also necessary to utilize a whole body monitor, two monitoring devices should be obtained.

III. Pregnant Personnel:
   A. Pregnant occupationally exposed personnel will make early disclosure of their pregnancy to their employer in writing with the approximate date of conception and cooperate with their employer in the observation of proper radiation safety practices. Through full cooperation of all department personnel, every effort will be made during the first trimester to remove the pregnant personnel from any radiation exposure. Regular work rotations will be resumed at the onset of the second trimester.
Additional badge monitors will be provided in order to provide more accurate fetal radiation dose.

B. During the entire gestation period, the dose equivalent to the fetus from occupational exposure of the expected mother should not exceed 0.5 rem.

C. In the event any personnel refuses a work schedule or assignment due to pregnancy, that individual must apply for Medical Leave of Absence through Employee Health/Human Resources.

IV. All lead aprons and radiation protection devices will be checked for defects annually under fluoroscopy.

V. Patients of childbearing age will have a pregnancy test if they have not had a surgical sterilization procedure. If the patient does not want a pregnancy test, consent for High Exposure Radiologic Procedure will be obtained.

VI. Equipment will be calibrated and checked for proper operation by authorizing company representatives or in-house Clinical Engineering, at interval not to exceed 12 months and documented for reference.

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