

PROTOCOL FOR: Radiation Exposure: Minimizing Patient Exposure

DESIRED PATIENT OUTCOME: The patient is free from signs and symptoms of injury related to use of radiation. Radiation exposure is limited to the target site.

- CLINICAL ASSESSMENT AND CARE:
1. Assess patient's history of radiation exposure for therapeutic and diagnostic purposes.
 2. Ensure that pre-menopausal women are aware of radiation risks associated with pregnancy. Obtain order for screening test, as indicated.
 3. Ensure proper protective equipment is available.
 4. Implement measures to protect the patient from direct and scatter radiation:
 - a. shield gonads and thyroid when those organs are not targeted for exposure.
 - b. shield abdomen and fetus of pregnant patients.
 5. Report any of the following:
 - inability to use lead shielding as recommended.
 - inability to position patient and film /fluoroscopy properly
 6. Monitor for skin changes (eg, redness, abrasions, bruising, blistering, edema).

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/03
REVISED: 03/08