
Diagnostic Services – Department of Radiology – Diagnostic Division

SUBJECT/TITLE: INTEROPERATIVE SHIELDING DURING FLUOROSCOPY
GUIDED EXAMS IN THE PEDIATRIC PATIENT

PURPOSE: To reduce the exposure of ionizing radiation to reproductive organs of pediatric patients during intraoperative procedures.

DEFINITION: None

POLICY: (Study *A referenced below shows promise in limiting gonadal doses during intraoperative procedures. Pediatric dose reduction is of the utmost importance.) Pediatric patients are to be wrapped in a lead shield during fluoroscopy guided procedures **ONLY** when the inclusion of the lead shielding will not interfere with the procedure or the imaging.

PROCEDURE:

- 1) Lay appropriate (size specific) lead shield across the operative table at a level that will cover the patient's gonadal region. If the patient is diminutive in size, start the shielding at the level of the axilla. (Lead shielding options are outlined below.)
- 2) Cover the lead shield with a towel before moving patient. Once the patient is positioned on the shield, pad all usual and applicable pressure points.
- 3) Cover the patients exposed skin with a towel or blanket and place another lead shield over the patient's gonads and extend it as far superiorly on the patient as the procedure will allow. Place thyroid shield over the patient's neck.
- 4) Continue to prep and drape as normal.

Lead Options:

- 1) **9"x24" Lead Strips** will be used for infants and toddlers.
- 2) **Extra small ultralight Skirt** can be used for small children up to adults.
- 3) **Thyroid Shields** should be placed over the neck and upper chest.

