

Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences

Computed Tomography (CT) Program

Academic Policies
and
Clinical Education Handbook

2019-2020

Notice of Equal Opportunity

Thomas Jefferson University is committed to providing equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, marital status, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, veteran's status or any other protected characteristic. The consideration of factors unrelated to a person's ability, qualifications and performance is inconsistent with this policy. Any person having inquiries or complaints concerning Thomas Jefferson University's compliance with Title VI, Title IX, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act, or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act is directed to contact their Student Affairs Dean or Human Resources – Employee Relations, who have been designated by Thomas Jefferson University to coordinate the institution's efforts to comply with these laws. Any person may also contact the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202, or the Director, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Region Three, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, regarding the University's compliance with the equal opportunity laws.

Required Background Check

Students who are offered admission to Jefferson are required to pass a criminal background check and child abuse clearance. Some departments within the College, as well as some clinical sites may require students to be fingerprinted and/or drug tested. The Office of Admissions will provide you with the appropriate information to complete these requirements.

Clinical rotation and fieldwork sites that require a criminal background check, child abuse clearance and/or fingerprinting may deny a student's participation in the clinical experience, rotation or fieldwork because of a felony or misdemeanor conviction or a record of child abuse. Clinical sites may also deny participation in clinical experiences for other reasons, including but not limited to failure of a required drug test, or inability to produce an appropriate health clearance. As participation in clinical experiences, rotations or fieldwork is a required part of the curriculum and a requirement for graduation, denial of participation by a clinical site may result in delay of graduation or the inability to graduate from the program.

Regardless of whether or not a student graduates from Jefferson, individuals who have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor may be denied certification or licensure as a health professional. Information regarding individual eligibility may be obtained from the appropriate credentialing bodies.

Thomas Jefferson University reserves the right to amend any regulations, fees, conditions and courses described herein as circumstances may require without prior notice to persons who might thereby be affected. The provisions of this handbook are not and may not be regarded as contractual between the College and the students or its employees.

The Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences reserves the right to make policy and procedure changes at any time. Such changes will be distributed for insertion into the appropriate section of the Handbook. All students enrolled in any courses sponsored by the Department must comply with such changes at the time specified by the Department.

Revised and Adopted August 2019

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THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY MISSION

We improve lives and provide students with exceptional value in 21st century professional education.

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY VISION

We are reimagining health, education and discovery to create unparalleled value.

Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University)

We are a comprehensive university with preeminence in transdisciplinary, experiential professional education, research and discovery, delivering exceptional value for the 21st century students with excellence in architecture, business, design, fashion, engineering, health, medicine, science and textiles - infused with the liberal arts.

MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT & CT PROGRAM

The Mission of the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences and CT Program is to provide a comprehensive education preparing students for entry-level practice in radiologic and imaging sciences as competent, caring members of the health care team, cultivating professionalism and life-long learning.

PROGRAM GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Goal # 1: Clinical Performance and Clinical Competence:

CT Program students will be clinically competent.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1-A. CT Program students will demonstrate appropriate patient care techniques.

1-B. CT Program students will demonstrate appropriate equipment skills and techniques.

Goal # 2: Problem Solving Skills and Critical Thinking:

CT Program students will apply critical thinking and problem solving skills in making decisions about CT exams.

Student Learning Outcomes:

2-A. CT Program students will demonstrate appropriate image evaluation techniques.

2-B. CT Program students will demonstrate appropriate optimization techniques.

Goal # 3: Communication Skills:

CT Program students will master the communication skills necessary to interact successfully with patients and other members of the healthcare team.

Student Learning Outcomes:

3-A. CT Program students will demonstrate appropriate oral communication techniques.

3-B. CT Program students will demonstrate appropriate written communication techniques.

Goal # 4: Professional Development and Growth:

CT Program students will demonstrate potential for professional development and growth.

Student Learning Outcomes:

4-A. CT Program students will develop effective work habits and professional values.

4-B. CT Program students will function as professionals in the healthcare setting.

THE HANDBOOK

This *Academic Policies and Clinical Education Handbook* serves as a guide for students enrolled in the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences, Jefferson College of Health Professions, Thomas Jefferson University.

A Thomas Jefferson University student is required to uphold a high standard of academic and nonacademic conduct. That standard is presented in this document and will be upheld by the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences. Academic and nonacademic misconduct at Thomas Jefferson University is subject to disciplinary action.

This handbook is given to matriculating students during orientation. The Department will obtain documentation of the receipt and review of the handbook.

Each student will be responsible for maintaining his/her knowledge of the information contained in the Academic Policies and Clinical Education Handbook, as well as the Jefferson College of Health Professions Catalog, and Jefferson College of Health Professions Student Handbook. See: www.jefferson.edu/handbook.

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

Graduates of the one-year and two-year¹ programs are eligible to take the associated certification examinations of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS), Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI), Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB), and Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB), as applicable. Students who pass these examinations receive national certification.

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The educational programs of the Department are approved by the University administration. All programs are programmatically accredited by their respective accreditation bodies (e.g., JRCERT, JRCNMT, and JRCEDMS). All programs, including Computed Tomography, Invasive Cardiovascular Technology and PET/CT programs are covered under the University's accreditation by Middle States Commission on Accreditation.

PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

A student who believes a program is not in compliance with the accreditation standards should submit a written complaint to the Program Director, including documentation for the complaint. The Department Chair, Program Director, and Clinical Coordinator will review the complaint and documentation and respond to the student within three (3) business days of receiving the complaint. If the student is not satisfied with the response, he/she has the right to contact the accreditation body².

¹Two-year students in all programs EXCEPT sonography are NOT eligible for the certification exams until they have successfully earned a degree from Thomas Jefferson University.

²Students in the CT, ICVT or PET/CT Program should contact the Dean of JCHP.

UNIVERSITY AND JCHP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

While we have attempted to provide you with a comprehensive departmental handbook, it does not stand alone.

All students enrolled at Thomas Jefferson University are expected to follow a code of behavior consistent with the high standards of the health professions and to uphold the reputation of the University. In addition, students must comply with the rules and regulations duly established within the Jefferson College of Health Professions. See: www.jefferson.edu/handbook

For additional University and/or for Jefferson College of Health Profession's policies, including but not limited to Drug and Alcohol, Student Religious Observance, Medical Leave of Absence, Social Media, Student Personal Counseling Center, Occupational Health Network for Employees & Students, and Jefferson Emergency Procedures, see: www.jefferson.edu/handbook

ACADEMIC POLICIES

POLICIES ON STUDENT PROGRESSION

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Prerequisites for courses outlined in the curriculum must be met in order to follow the necessary educational sequence.
2. Students are responsible for accessing courses through Blackboard Learn (jefferson.blackboard.com) and downloading all course syllabi, handouts and assignments for each course every semester.
3. Students must complete course evaluations for each of their courses at the end of the semester. A link will be provided to the students at the end of the semester.
4. Students must complete the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Safety Modules prior to matriculation.
5. Students are responsible for checking their **Jefferson** e-mail accounts daily. All Program related correspondence will occur through this account only.

POLICIES ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PROGRESSION IN THE MEDICAL IMAGING AND RADIATION SCIENCES MAJOR

1. Students who earns one course grade of C- or below in the Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences curriculum in any academic year will be placed on departmental academic probation and will be required to meet with their assigned faculty advisor to monitor academic progress.
2. Students who earns two or more course grades of C- or below in the Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences curriculum in any academic year will be dismissed from the program in which they are currently enrolled. Students will be subject to dismissal from the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences.
3. Students who earns a course grade of F in any Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences curriculum will be dismissed from the program in which they are currently enrolled. Students will be subject to dismissal from the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences.
4. Two-year student who have been placed on departmental academic probation during their junior academic year, but has successfully completed his/her junior academic year, will be taken off departmental academic probation at the beginning of their senior academic year.
5. Students who are dismissed from the Department of Medical Imaging & Radiation Sciences due to unsatisfactory academic performance may, within one-year of the dismissal, apply for re-admission by submitting a written request directly to the Department Chairperson. After a one-year time period, all applications for readmission must be made through the Office of Admissions with a review by the Department Chair. Refer to the Readmission Procedure section of the Jefferson College of Health Professions Course Catalog for the JCHP Readmission Statement
6. Incomplete grades for a Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences course can be assigned

only in the case of extenuating circumstances. These circumstances must be reviewed by the faculty prior to the issuance of an “Incomplete” grade. In all cases, an “Incomplete” grade is assigned only when the work already done has been of a quality acceptable to the instructor.

Every student is required to meet with his or her faculty advisor at least once during each semester.

COMPETENCY-BASED CLINICAL EDUCATION

COMPETENCY BASED CLINICAL EDUCATION

Competency-based clinical education has been established for the students enrolled in the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiologic Sciences programs. It is designed to permit accurate assessment of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of students in the clinical education component of the program. Evaluation of students' clinical competencies must be completed by registered technologists under the direction of the Clinical Affiliate Supervisor.

All students must attend a minimum number of clinical training hours (see clinical syllabus). All students must complete clinical competencies in accordance with the requirement of their certification body.

CLINICAL EDUCATION ELIGIBILITY

To be assigned to a Clinical Affiliate, the student must meet the following requirements or obligations:

- Be a student in good academic standing in the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or higher.
- Provide and maintain proof of certification in adult, child and infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation (BLS/CPR/AED for Healthcare Provider).
- Meet program specific technical standards **Appendix A**.
- Complete all immunization requirements *prior to* commencing or resuming clinical courses. Failure to meet these health requirements will result in the delay of clinical practical or the failure of clinical courses.
- Be in compliance with the University requirements for influenza vaccination.
- Additional requirements may be needed.
- Students not in compliance are **not** permitted to attend classes or clinical

CLINICAL PRACTICES AND POLICIES

1. Attendance at clinical practical is mandatory.
2. A student who does not demonstrate safe clinical practice will be in violation of clinical practices and policies.
3. A student who does not demonstrate professional behavior and professional practice is subject to review by the faculty.
4. Safe clinical or professional practice is defined as:
 - a. Adhering to the *Patients' Bill of Rights* - **Appendix B**.
 - b. Performing clinical duties consistent with the professional Code of Ethics - **Appendix C**.
 - c. Adhering to the code of behavior/conduct outlined in the University, College and Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences handbooks.
 - d. Adhering to all clinical practices and policies of the clinical site and as outlined in the University, College and Department policies and procedures.
 - e. Adhering to departmental radiation protection and monitoring practices where appropriate* - **Appendix D, E & F** (*only applicable to modalities that use ionizing radiation).

VIOLATIONS OF CLINICAL PRACTICES AND POLICIES

Violations of Clinical Practices and Policies will typically be addressed through progressive discipline, as follows:

- First violation – written warning and counseling by the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator.
- Second violation – possible suspension, at the discretion of the Program Director, or dismissal.
- Third violation – dismissal from the Department.

Depending on the particular circumstances, one or more progressive disciplinary steps may be skipped in instances of particularly serious violations of policies and/or practices, and some egregious violations may result in immediate dismissal from the Department.

POLICY GOVERNING CLINICAL EDUCATION SCHEDULING

The purpose of the clinical assignment is to correlate didactic knowledge with practical skills and attitudes.

The total number of students assigned to any clinical site shall be determined by the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences and approved by program accreditation bodies.

The student is subject to all rules and regulations of the clinical affiliate. The clinical affiliate reserves the right to suspend or terminate from the site a student who does not adhere to established policies of the program or the clinical affiliate. A student who does not maintain appropriate behavior may be suspended or dismissed immediately. (Refer to the section entitled "Responsibilities of the Student" on page 16.) Due to the limited number of clinical sites, should a student be asked to leave the assigned clinical site for any disciplinary reason, the Department cannot guarantee the student a new clinical placement. This would result in a failure for the clinical course and dismissal from the program/department.

If a student is suspended or dismissed from a clinical affiliate, the Department Chair, Program Director and Clinical Coordinator will review the circumstances for this action. All parties are encouraged to address the issue promptly in writing (within five (5) business days whenever possible) so that resolution of grievance should require no more than three (3) weeks. If the decision to dismiss is upheld, the clinical dismissal will result in a final grade of "F". Students who have reason to believe that the grade has been inappropriately assigned may request a review of the grade in accordance with the provisions of the Grade Appeal Protocol, which is published in the JCHP Student Handbook. For dismissal due to Unsafe Clinical Performance, students will follow the Policy on Dismissal for Unsafe Clinical Performance, which is published in the JCHP Student Handbook. See: www.jefferson.edu/handbook.

CLINICAL AFFILIATE ASSIGNMENT

The Program Director or Clinical Coordinator determines student schedules and assignments at clinical affiliates. Assignments at the clinical affiliates are intended to provide the student with a comprehensive clinical education as deemed appropriate by the faculty, and serves to correlate didactic knowledge with practical skills. Students are not guaranteed specific clinical affiliates, however, student input is considered. Should a student be dismissed from the clinical affiliate, the department does not guarantee replacement at an alternate site.

The program provides equitable learning opportunities for all students regarding learning activities and clinical assignments.

Any student requesting changes in the clinical schedule must submit written justification for the change to the appropriate Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator. A decision will be made based on the student's educational needs and site availability.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CLINICAL AFFILIATE SUPERVISORS/INSTRUCTORS

The clinical affiliate supervisors/instructors are available to students whenever they are assigned to a clinical setting. Responsibilities include:

- Providing appropriate clinical supervision. (Refer to the section entitled "Supervision Policy" on page 28.)
- Student clinical evaluation and feedback.
- Providing orientation to the clinical department.
- Providing feedback to the program director and clinical coordinator.
- Being knowledgeable of program goals.
- Understanding the clinical objectives and clinical evaluation system.
- Understanding the sequencing of didactic instruction and clinical education
- Providing students with clinical instruction and supervision
- Evaluating students' clinical competence
- Maintaining competency in the professional discipline and instructional and evaluative techniques through continuing professional development
- Maintaining current knowledge of program policies, procedures, and student progress.
- Maintaining safety and confidentiality of student records, instructional materials, and other program materials.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLINICAL STAFF

Responsibilities of the clinical staff include:

- Understanding the clinical competency system
- Understanding requirements for student supervision
- Supporting the educational process
- Maintaining current knowledge of program policies, procedures, and student progress
- Maintaining safety and confidentiality of student records, instructional materials, and other program materials

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT/CLINICAL COORDINATOR

The Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences/Clinical Coordinator coordinates the daily operations of clinical education. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Providing clinical education centers.
- Mentoring students.
- Supervising students.
- Advising students.
- Providing guidance to clinical instructors.
- Reviewing program policies and procedures with clinical affiliate supervisor/instructors.
- Visiting clinical sites each semester to observe and evaluate student performance
- Maintaining safety and confidentiality of student records, instructional materials, and other program materials.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT

The student is responsible for:

- Displaying professional appearance in compliance with the dress code policy.
- Establishing harmonious working relationships and earning the respect of the Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences personnel and other members of the health care team through a professional and dignified posture and attitude.
- Using all equipment and materials responsibly and safely.
- Embodying the highest standards of civility, honesty, and integrity.
- Respecting and protecting the privacy, dignity, and individuality of others.
- Observing and assisting the clinical staff.
- Attending and participating in all scheduled clinical activities.
- Consulting with clinical affiliate supervisors and/or departmental faculty for help with problems.
- Participating in the development of an individualized clinical education plan.
- Maintaining an accurate record of clinical examinations/competencies.
- Recording the number and types of evaluations required during each academic semester.
- Striving to broaden their knowledge and background on clinical subject matter by reading professional literature and attending conferences and seminars.
- Incurring all travel costs and expenses. Use personal or public transportation to clinical affiliates. Commuting time and costs are not determining factors for clinical assignments. These time and cost factors are borne solely by the student.
- Meeting with advisor at least once per semester.
- Maintaining safety and confidentiality of student records, instructional materials, and other program materials
- Providing safe and quality patient care including safe radiation practices for patient, self, and the healthcare team.
- Demonstrating clinical progression
- Corresponding in a timely fashion with all program faculty and administration.

CLINICAL POLICIES

DEPARTMENT POLICY ON CONDUCT

Students must comply with the rules and regulations of the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences. Deviation constitutes misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Sleeping during a clinical assignment.
- Failure to actively participate in clinical education.
- Leaving a clinical assignment or room/area assignment without qualified staff's permission.
- Failure to notify Clinical Affiliate and the Clinical Coordinator of absence or lateness.
- Using any personal electronic devices in the patient-care/clinical education setting.
- Using the hospital computer for any reason EXCEPT hospital business.
- Violation of the supervision policy.
- Violation of any duly established rules or regulations.

FAMILY MEMEBERS/FRIENDS WORKING AT CLINICAL AFFILIATE POLICY

It may be deemed a conflict of interest for a student to be supervised or evaluated by family members or friends employed at their clinical affiliate. If this situation arises, the student should inform their Program Director/Clinical Coordinator, so that alternative arrangements can be considered.

FAMILY MEMBERS/FRIENDS CLASSROOM, LAB & CLINICAL POLICY

At the Clinical Affiliate

- Family and friends should be discouraged from visiting the clinical affiliate. In particular, unsupervised children are not permitted.
- Family and friends must wait in a public area, and are **not** permitted in scanning or treatment rooms.
- It is not acceptable for students to entertain their family and friends and neglect their professional duties.
- Students may not ask clinical affiliate staff to baby-sit for them.
- TJU's liability insurance does not extend to students' family and friends.

In the Medical Imaging and Radiation Science (MIRS) Department

- Students should discourage their family and friends from visiting the MIRS department while they (the students) are in class.
- Family and friends are not permitted to attend lectures or laboratory sessions
- Unaccompanied children are not permitted in the MIRS department.
- Students may not ask faculty or administrative staff to baby-sit for them.
- TJU's liability insurance does not extend to students' family and friends.

In the Medical Imaging and Radiation Science (MIRS) laboratories

- Only Medical Imaging and Radiation Science students with proper Jefferson ID are permitted in the laboratory.
- The students are not permitted to bring family members or friends in the laboratory at any time.
- Scanning or performing any procedures on family members or friends is not permitted.
- Other Jefferson students or employees who are not part of the Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences department are not permitted in the MIRS laboratory unless they have signed a waiver to be used as a student volunteer.
- TJU's liability insurance does not extend to students' family and friends.

Failure to comply with the policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Students may not carry or use any type of personal electronic device during clinical hours. These devices must be placed with your personal belongings. The use of any type of recording device (camera, video, etc.) is strictly prohibited. Students in violation of this policy may be asked to leave the clinical affiliate and will be marked absent for that day. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator of any absence.

For exceptional circumstances necessitating immediate personal communication by phone or text, students should ask the Clinical Affiliate Supervisor to be excused, attend to the personal business, and return to duty as quickly as possible.

COMPUTER POLICY

Students may not use computers for personal business during clinical hours. Personal business includes (but is not limited to) internet surfing, shopping, emailing and instant messaging, texting, and printing. Personal storage devices (USB, flash drives, CD's) are not permitted in the clinical setting.

Students in violation of this policy may be asked to leave his/her clinical affiliate and will be marked absent. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator of any absence.

STUDENT WORK POLICY

If a student is employed at any clinical affiliate, the student must abide by the following policies:

- Students must notify Program officials that they are working at the clinical affiliate
- Students are not permitted to work during scheduled clinical hours.
- Students may **not** wear student uniforms or Jefferson ID.
- Students may not accrue competencies during non-clinical hours.
- Students may not apply work time to make-up time.
- Students are not covered by Jefferson liability insurance during non-clinical hours.

Non-compliance

Any student not complying with the policies listed will be removed from the clinical affiliate.

- Department Policy on Conduct
- Family Members/Friends Policy
- Cell Phone Policy
- Computer Policy
- Student Work Policy

Any clinical time missed due to a violation of these policies will be made up by the student at a later date. The Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator in cooperation with the Clinical Affiliate Supervisor will determine make-up time. Further disciplinary action may be taken for habitual violations of policies. (Refer to the section entitled "Violations of Clinical Practices and Policies" on page 14.

VENIPUNCTURE POLICY

The ARRT clinical competency requirements include performance of venipuncture for injection of contrast agents and radiopharmaceuticals.

In order to participate in the performance of venipuncture on patients, students must:

- Have completed all immunizations as required by JCHP.
- Have current BLS certification, as required by the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences.
- Have health insurance, as required by JCHP.
- Have completed a venipuncture certification course, as required by the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences.
- Attend and complete institutional venipuncture training, as required by clinical affiliates.

HEALTH INFORMATION CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY:

HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA)

Students must maintain strict confidentiality of all health information of patients at clinical affiliate sites during and after the course of their clinical rotations. Students may neither use nor disclose health information of patients to which they have access, other than as expressly authorized by the clinical affiliate. Students may not record any patient-identifiable information on their personal documents (e.g. clinical logs). Students must be familiar with and adhere to their clinical affiliate's HIPAA policy. Jefferson HIPAA Policy:

<https://tjuh.jeffersonhospital.org/policy/index.cfm/universitypnp/view/id/10329>

PREGNANCY POLICY

A student who becomes pregnant during a component of the program may voluntarily inform the Program Director, in writing, of their pregnancy.

- Option 1 The student may continue in the program if they choose, without modifications to any component of the program.
- Option 2 The student may take a leave of absence from clinical education, but continue their didactic studies. Clinical assignments will be completed when the student returns.
- Option 3 The student may withdraw from the program and reapply in accordance with College policies.
- Option 4 The student, in writing, may withdraw her declaration of pregnancy at any time and/or for any reason.

Due to the need for special radiation protection education, counseling by the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) is available.

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) SAFETY POLICY

An MR room has a very strong magnetic field that may be hazardous to individuals entering the MR environment if they have certain metallic, electronic, magnetic, mechanical implants, devices, or objects. Therefore, all Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences students are required to undergo an MRI Safety lecture and MRI Safety Screening prior to MRI rotations or observations.

1. Students will attend an MRI Safety lecture and be screened for MRI Safety clearance in the Fall Semester by the MRI Clinical Coordinator.
2. Students will abide by clinical affiliate MRI Safety Protocols during their clinical rotations and/or observations.
3. Students will notify the MRI Clinical Coordinator and be re-screened for MRI Safety clearance, should their status change during the academic year, with regard to any potentially hazardous implants, devices, or objects, prior to MRI rotations or observations.

N95 RESPIRATOR POLICY

Medical Imaging and Radiation Science students will not be fitted for a N95 respirator masks. MIRS student should NOT enter a patient's room that requires this form of personal protective equipment.

INCIDENT REPORTS AT THE CLINICAL AFFILIATE

Students who becomes ill, injured or is involved in an incident during a clinical rotation must:

1. Report immediately to their Clinical Affiliate Supervisor and follow departmental protocol.
2. Immediately contact the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator
3. Present a note to the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator from the Emergency Room Physician, Jefferson Occupational Health Network Physician, or family physician stating the date the student may resume normal duties.
4. Student must report to Jefferson Occupational Health Network as soon as possible (215-955-6835).

If a patient is injured while in the student's care, the student must:

1. Make sure that the patient is safe.
2. Report the incident immediately to the Clinical Affiliate Supervisor and follow departmental protocol.
3. Immediately contact the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Should students be diagnosed as having an infectious disease, they must report such diagnosis to the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator and the Clinical Affiliate Supervisor. The student may be asked to leave clinical until cleared by their physician and Jefferson Occupational University Health Network. The student must present a physician's note to the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator stating that the student may resume normal duties.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND/OR BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

What to Do for an Occupational Exposure to Body Fluids (Needle-stick or Splash)

If you have sustained an exposure to a body fluid from one of your patients, please follow the instructions below.

1. Wash the exposed area with soap and water. **DO NOT USE BLEACH.**
2. If a fluid splashed in your eye, rinse with tap water or with sterile saline.
3. If a fluid splashed in your eye, remove your contacts immediately.
4. Advise your supervisor that you have been exposed.
5. Complete the accident report online through PeopleSoft Employee Self-serve System if you are an employee. Students will complete an accident report in Jefferson Occupational Health Network (JOHN).
6. Report to JOHN at 833 Chestnut Street, Suite 205 (when JOHN is closed report to the Emergency Department) as soon as possible.
7. Know your patient's name, DOB and MR# as well as the name of the attending physician of the source patient.
8. Source patient testing (hospitalized) can be ordered through Epic by selecting: "Needlestick Inpatient Evaluation" on the drop down menu. (Includes STAT HIV antigen/antibody, hepatitis C antibody, hepatitis B surface antigen)
9. Source patient testing (outpatient population) should include:
STAT HIV antigen/antibody, hepatitis C antibody, hepatitis B surface antigen.

JOHN will discuss the risks of your exposure and advise whether or not further treatment or evaluation is necessary. All testing in JOHN is performed free of charge for Jefferson employees and students. Please call 215-955-6835 with any questions.

If you are a Jefferson student at an affiliate, please call our office as soon as possible. You may opt to be seen at an emergency department, and the visit will be billed to your insurance. Follow up in JOHN is recommended on the next business day. Questions may be directed to Dr. Ellen O'Connor at ellen.oconnor@jefferson.edu.

Detailed information on Jefferson Occupational Health Network for Employees & Students may be viewed on the JOHN website: <https://hospitals.jefferson.edu/departments-and-services/occupational-health-network.html>. In addition, the needle-sticks website, an internal website accessed through Blackboard, has comprehensive summaries of the various topics involving occupational exposures.

Jefferson Occupational Health Network for Employees & Students is located at 833 Chestnut Street, Suite 205 and is open 7:30am – 4:00pm Monday through Friday. The general number is (215) 955-6835.

ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

DIDACTIC/LABORATORY INSTRUCTION

Each course syllabus details the attendance policy.

CLINICAL ATTENDANCE RECORDS

Time cards/Attendance Sheets provided by the Department are used for documenting clinical hours. Each student must personally sign or clock "in" and "out." Students who have to sign-in (i.e. no time clock punch) must write down the time and have the designated staff initial next to the signed time. Time not documented must be made up. **Under no circumstances is it permissible to sign-in or out or clock-in or out for another student.** Any student found guilty of such an offense is subject to dismissal.

CLINICAL EDUCATION HOURS

Total clinical assignments will not exceed 40 hours per week. Assignments on any one day will not exceed 8 hours, unless otherwise requested by the student and approved by the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator in conjunction with the Clinical Affiliate Supervisor, or if patient care responsibilities dictate otherwise. No student will be permitted to leave a patient during the course of an examination, even if such completion requires remaining on duty beyond the end of the shift.

Students will be assigned a lunch period each day, which they are required to take. The lunch break will be commensurate with the practice of the department and area/rotation assignment.

The lunch break may not be used to make-up or accrue time.

Clinical Affiliate Supervisors may re-schedule students (within an assigned eight hours) to provide complete exposure to the unique learning opportunities in Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences. The Clinical Affiliate Supervisor must notify the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator of these changes.

Students will participate in designated procedures during their clinical assignments under the guidance of a supervising technologist in the areas to which they are assigned.

PERSONAL DAYS

Students are allocated one personal day each semester. This time cannot be taken in half-days. Time off must be taken in full days (8 hours). It is not accruable nor is it transferable. A personal time request form must be submitted to the Program Director or Clinical Coordinator. **The Clinical Affiliate Supervisor and Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator MUST be notified when a student is out of clinical.**

ABSENCE POLICY

Attendance is required for all clinical education sessions. If a student will be absent from a clinical assignment, he or she must call or email the Clinical Affiliate Supervisor and Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator *prior to* the start of the shift. Three or more consecutive absences require a doctor's note. However, any sick days (even with an excusal note from a medical health professional) are not considered excused absences – make-up time will be required. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on an individual basis.

If an emergency arises requiring an early departure from the clinical affiliate, the student must notify both the Clinical Affiliate Supervisor and the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator. It is the responsibility of the student to make these calls. Absences must be made up at the discretion of the faculty.

PUNCTUALITY

Student not in the assigned clinical area at the assigned time will be considered late. Three late arrivals in one semester count as one day's absence. Habitual lateness could lead to dismissal from the program.

It is the policy of the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences that any student who is going to be late must notify both the Clinical Affiliate Supervisor and the Clinical Coordinator prior to the start of his/her assigned time. All lost time due to lateness from the clinical area must be made up by the student. Failure to abide by these policies could lead to dismissal from the program.

Students will be advised in writing concerning their habitual lateness or violation of the Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences lateness policies by the Clinical Coordinator and/or Program Director.

Disciplinary actions including suspensions from the clinical affiliate or dismissal from the program may be taken against students who persist in habitual lateness or violations of the Departmental of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences lateness policies, after previously having been counseled in writing by the Clinical Coordinator and/or Program Director at an Advisement Conference.

MAKE-UP TIME

Arrangements must be made with the Clinical Affiliate Supervisor and approved by the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator. Make up time may not be assigned to clinical settings on holidays that are observed by the sponsoring institution. The make-up time form is signed upon fulfillment of the time missed. The form will be submitted to the Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator. All clinical absences must be made up at the clinical affiliate where the time was missed, consistent with the room assignments in effect when the absence occurred.

The lunch break may not be used to make-up or accrue time.

POLICY CONCERNING DEATH IN THE FAMILY

Upon notification to the Program Director, students will be allowed up to three (3) days of leave of absence for death in the immediate family. Immediate family members include parents, grandparents, spouse, brother, sister or child. Leaves of absence requested because of the death of someone other than an immediate family member may be granted by special permission.

HOSPITAL JOB ACTIONS OR STRIKES

Whenever a strike or job action occurs at an assigned clinical site, the student must leave the assignment immediately and report to the Program Director or Clinical Coordinator for further directions. Missed clinical time must be made up.

At no time should a student attempt to cross a picket line to enter a Clinical Affiliate.

JURY DUTY

Being selected for jury duty is a civic responsibility in which the Department encourages students to participate. Please be advised that the College cannot intervene on the student's behalf should a student be summoned for jury duty.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Students are encouraged to participate in campus activities, e.g., orientation programs, recruitment functions, social and cultural events, interprofessional activities and the Class Day Pinning Ceremony. Students have the opportunity to represent the students' viewpoints on Department, College and University committees. The University and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital sponsor many volunteer and mentoring programs. Professional organizations, Jefferson Alumni Association and the College sponsor many programs that focus on career and professional development.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Students are eligible for:

- Department awards for outstanding overall performance
- Awards for clinical excellence.

Awards are presented during the Class Day Pinning Ceremony.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in professional activities and to seek memberships in national, state and local societies. These organizations sponsor competitions for students and several offer scholarships and educational grants.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT)
- Philadelphia Society of Radiologic Technologists (PhilaSRT)
- Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology (ACERT)

HONOR SOCIETIES

- Lambda Nu Society
 - Honor society for radiologic and imaging science professionals
 - <http://www.lambdanu.org>

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUPERVISION POLICY

Until the student achieves and documents competency in any given procedure, that procedure must be carried out under the direct supervision of a registered technologist.

DIRECT SUPERVISION

All student CT procedures are performed under the direct supervision of a qualified practitioner until the student achieves competency. Direct student supervision is defined as student supervision by a qualified practitioner who reviews the procedure in relation to the student's achievement, evaluates the condition of the patient in relation to the student's knowledge, is present during the procedure, and reviews and approves the procedure. Students must be directly supervised until competency is achieved.

INDIRECT SUPERVISION

All student CT procedures must also be performed under the indirect supervision of a qualified practitioner after a student achieves competency. Indirect supervision is defined as that supervision provided by a qualified practitioner immediately available to assist students regardless of the level of student achievement. Immediately available is interpreted as the physical presence of a qualified practitioner adjacent to the room or location where a CT procedure is being performed.

DRESS CODE AND APPEARANCE POLICY

UNIFORMS

- The dress code for students enrolled in Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences programs consists of navy blue hospital scrubs (tops and bottoms).

- A white or navy blue, mock turtleneck may also be worn under the scrub top in the fall and winter seasons.

- Name tags must be visible to patient and staff and worn at all times.

- Solid white, leather footwear or solid white low-top sneakers. Clogs, sandals or open-toed shoes are not permitted. Students are responsible for keeping shoes neat, clean, and polished. Shoestrings should also be kept clean and properly tied.

APPEARANCE

- Students are required to practice good personal hygiene and present a professional appearance at all times.
- Appropriate and clean attire is required during ALL clinical and didactic sessions.
- Unacceptable apparel includes: short skirts/pants, torn/ripped garments, low-cut tops, lewd and/or suggestive slogans on any clothing
- Keep hair, mustaches and beards neatly trimmed. Long hair must be tied back.
- Fingernails:
 - No artificial nails.
 - No nail polish.
 - Nail length must be less than ¼ inches.
- Keep jewelry to a minimum. Earrings should be of the small post type (no hoops).
- Any body piercing besides the ears should not be evident at clinical affiliate. Tongue rings are unacceptable and are not allowed to be worn.
- Wear makeup conservatively. No perfumes, colognes, lotions or powders are to be worn at clinical sites.
- Any visible tattoos must be appropriately covered.
- Chewing gum is not permitted.
- Students are required to wear identification and radiation badges supplied by Thomas Jefferson University, and Clinical Affiliate Sites if provided, at all times.

Non-compliance

Any student not complying with the dress code and appearance policy will be removed from the clinical affiliate. Any clinical time missed due to a dress code and appearance violation will be made up by the student at a later date. The Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator in cooperation with the Clinical Affiliate Supervisor will determine make-up time.

Appendix A

**Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences
Jefferson College of Health Professions
Thomas Jefferson University**

**TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR A COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT)
TECHNOLOGIST**

A Computed Tomography (CT) Technologist is typically employed in a hospital or a clinic to provide direct care for patients and must be able to apply verified knowledge and skillfully perform CT procedures. Clinical and laboratory assignments for the CT program require certain physical demands that are the technical standards of admission. These standards are based upon the minimum tasks performed by graduates of the program as recommended by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. Listed below are the technical standards which all applicants must meet in order to participate and complete the CT program.

1. Sufficient visual acuity to accurately administer contrast agents and to monitor imaging equipment as well as provide the necessary patient assessment and care.
2. Sufficient auditory perception to receive verbal communication from patients and members of the healthcare team and to assess the health needs of people through the use of monitoring devices such as intercom systems, blood pressure gauges and fire alarms.
3. Sufficient gross and fine motor coordination to respond promptly and to implement skills related to the performance of CT, such as positioning, transporting and imaging patients. CT technologists must be able to manipulate equipment such as the scan console and power injectors. In addition, CT technologists must perform venipuncture on a regular basis.
4. Sufficient communication skills (verbal, reading, writing) to interact with individuals and to communicate their needs promptly and effectively, as may be necessary in the patient's/client's interest.
5. Sufficient intellectual and emotional function to plan and implement patient care.

Examples of specific technical standards that the CT student must be able to meet are:

- Lift, transfer and/or move patients from wheelchair/stretchers to scan table, including trauma patients.
- Physical agility: sitting (4-7 hours)
- Physical and mental abilities to handle moderate and frequent exposure to infectious agents (blood, urine, etc.)
- Manual dexterity and ability to bend/stretch
- Distinguish colors and shades of gray
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills, including patient instruction
- Read and extract information from the medical chart or patient requisitions
- Explain the clinical study verbally and/or in writing

APPENDIX B

Patients' Bill of Rights

We consider you a partner in your hospital care. When you are well informed, participate in treatment decisions, and communicate openly with your doctor and other health professionals, you help make your care as effective as possible. This hospital encourages respect for the personal preferences and values of each individual.

While you are a patient in the hospital, your rights include the following:

- You have the right to considerate and respectful care.
- You have the right to be well informed about your illness, possible treatments, and likely outcome and to discuss this information with your doctor. You have the right to know the names and roles of people treating you.
- You have the right to consent to or refuse a treatment, as permitted by law, throughout your hospital. If you refuse a recommended treatment, you will receive other needed and available care.
- You have the right to have an advance directive, such as a living will or health care proxy. These documents express your choices about your future care or name someone to decide if you cannot speak for yourself. If you have a written advance directive, you should provide a copy to your family, and your doctor.
- You have the right to privacy. The hospital, your doctor, and others caring for you will protect your privacy as much as possible.
- You have the right to expect that treatment records are confidential unless you have given permission to release information or reporting is required or permitted by law. When the hospital releases records to others, such as insurers, it emphasizes that the records are confidential.
- You have the right to review your medical records and to have the information explained except when restricted by law.
- You have the right to expect that the hospital will give you necessary health hospital services to the best of its ability. Treatment, referral, or transfer may be recommended. If transfer is recommended or requested, you will be informed of risks, benefits, and alternatives. You will not be transferred until the other institution agrees to accept you.
- You have the right to know if this hospital has relationships with outside parties that may influence your treatment and care. These relationships may be with educational institutions, other health care providers, or insurers.
- You have the right to consent or decline to take part in research affecting your care. If you choose not to take part, you will receive the most effective care the hospital otherwise provides.
- You have the right to be told of realistic care alternatives when hospital care is no longer appropriate.

- You have the right to know about hospital rules that affect you and your treatment and about charges and payment methods. You have the right to know about hospital resources, such as patient representatives or ethic committees that can help you resolve problems and questions about your hospital stay and care.
- You have responsibilities as a patient. You are responsible for providing information about your health, including past illnesses, hospital stays, and use of medicine. You are responsible for asking questions when you do not understand information or instructions. If you believe you can't follow through with your treatment, you are responsible for telling your doctor.
- This hospital works to provide care efficiently and fairly to all patients and the community. You and you visitors are responsible for being considerate of the needs of other patients, staff, and the hospital. You are responsible for providing information for insurance and for working with the hospital to arrange payment, when needed.
- Your health depends not just on your hospital care but, in the long term, on the decisions you make in your daily life. You are responsible for recognizing the effect of life-style on your personal health.
- A hospital serves many purposes. Hospitals work to improve people's health; treat people with injury and disease; educate doctors, health professionals, patients, and community members; and improve understanding of health and disease. In carrying out these activities, this institution works to respect your values and dignity.

Appendix C

ASRT/ARRT CODE OF ETHICS

1. The radiologic technologist acts in a professional manner, responds to patient needs, and supports colleagues and associates in providing quality patientcare.
2. The radiologic technologist acts to advance the principal objective of the profession to provide services to humanity with full respect for the dignity of mankind.
3. The radiologic technologist delivers patient care and service unrestricted by the concerns of personal attributes or the nature of the disease or illness, and without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, age, or any other legally protected basis.
4. The radiologic technologist practices technology founded upon theoretical knowledge and concepts, uses equipment and accessories consistent with the purposes for which they were designed, and employs procedures and techniques appropriately.
5. The radiologic technologist assesses situations; exercises care, discretion, and judgment; assumes responsibility for professional decisions; and acts in the best interest of the patient.
6. The radiologic technologist acts as an agent through observation and communication to obtain pertinent information for the physician to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of the patient and recognizes that interpretation and diagnosis are outside the scope of practice for the profession.
7. The radiologic technologist uses equipment and accessories, employs techniques and procedures, performs services in accordance with an accepted standard of practice, and demonstrates expertise in minimizing radiation exposure to the patient, self, and other members of the healthcare team.
8. The radiologic technologist practices ethical conduct appropriate to the profession and protects the patient's right to quality radiologic technology care.
9. The radiologic technologist respects confidences entrusted in the course of professional practice, respects the patient's right to privacy, and reveals confidential information only as required by law or to protect the welfare of the individual or the community.
10. The radiologic technologist continually strives to improve knowledge and skills by participating in continuing education and professional activities, sharing knowledge with colleagues, and investigating new aspects of professional practice.
11. The radiologic technologist refrains from the use of illegal drugs and/or any legally controlled substances which result in impairment of professional judgment and/or ability to practice radiologic technology with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

Revised and adopted by The American Society of Radiologic Technologists and The American Registry of Radiologic Technologist, September 2018.

Appendix D

Radiation Protection Practices

RADIATION PROTECTION PRACTICES

1. A student is required to exercise sound radiation protection practices at all times. At no time may a student participate in a procedure utilizing unsafe protection practices.
2. A student must be aware of and enforce the policies and procedures of radiation safety in keeping with institutional, state, and national standards.
3. A student will always wear radiation dosimeters in the Clinical Site.
4. A student will wear the radiation film badge outside the clothing, on the torso. A ring badge will be worn when handling radioactive materials.
5. A student will always remove personal radiation dosimeters while having diagnostic medical or dental radiographs taken.
6. A student who deliberately exposes his/her radiation dosimeter will be suspended and/or dismissed from the program.
7. A student will use appropriate shielding.
8. Radiation protection of the patient and others within the examination room is the student's responsibility when he/she is performing the study.
9. A student may not perform procedures utilizing ionizing radiation on other students or staff at their request without a prescription for the exam by a physician.
The student will be dismissed from the program for this violation.*
10. A technologist or physician may not perform procedures utilizing ionizing radiation on a student without a prescription for the exam from the student's physician.
The student will be dismissed from the program for this violation.*

***(PA Code, Title 25. Environmental Protection. Department of Environmental Protection, Chapter 211.11.)**

APPENDIX E

Personal Radiation Monitoring

PERSONNEL RADIATION MONITORING

1. Each student is responsible for wearing properly dated radiation dosimeter(s) (body and ring badges) at Clinical Affiliate Sites and in laboratory classes. No student will be allowed in clinical or the laboratory class without properly dated radiation dosimeter(s) appropriately worn.
2. Students who do not have the properly dated radiation dosimeter(s) will be suspended from their clinical area until they have the properly dated radiation monitor. Time lost from the clinical area must be made up.
3. Dosimeters will be given to students each month.
4. Each student is responsible for exchanging the radiation dosimeter(s) on the designated day of each month. Radiation dosimeters are exchanged with the Program Director or Clinical Coordinator.
5. Dosimeter loss or accident must be reported immediately to the Program Director or Clinical Coordinator. The cost of lost radiation dosimeters is the responsibility of the student.
6. Each student is responsible for submitting their dosimeter(s), on time.
 - **A \$20.00 cash fee will be collected for all unreturned or late radiation dosimeters.**
7. The Program Director or Clinical Coordinator receives monthly radiation dose reports from the Radiation Safety Officer, and informs each student of his/her exposures.
8. Monthly radiation exposures for students **must not** exceed the maximum permissible dosage to occupationally exposed persons as established by state and federal agencies for radiologic health.
9. The Office of Radiation Safety maintains a history of each individual's exposure and anyone may examine his/her own radiation exposure record, or obtain a copy by sending a signed, written request to the Radiation Safety Office.
10. **“High” Radiation Dosimeter Readings**
High or unusual radiation dosimeter readings are investigated by Thomas Jefferson University's Radiation Safety Officer. Readings above designated “Investigation Levels” are evaluated with regard to workload and type of duties performed by the dosimeter wearer; adherence to proper work practices; proper care and use of the dosimeter; and possible exposure of the dosimeter to “non-occupational” radiation sources. In cases where it appears that the high readings may be due to inadequate safe work practices or improper use or storage of the dosimeter(s), the wearer is counseled by Radiation Safety Officer and/or the wearer's supervisor(s).

11. **On completion of the clinical rotation students must return their radiation dosimeter(s) to the Program Director or Clinical Coordinator. Students will be billed for unreturned badges.**

APPENDIX F

POLICIES & PROCEDURES



Policy No: RSO-053
Effective Date: 11/02/2000
Last Revision Date: 06/08/2015

Office of Radiation Safety

Category: Operations - Programmatic
Title: Radiation Dosimeter Use
Policy Owner: John C. Keklak
Contributors/Contributing Departments:

PURPOSE

To assess employee occupational radiation dose from ionizing radiation sources external to the body.

POLICY

Radiation dosimeters (“individual monitoring devices” as defined in 10 CFR 20.1203) are to be issued for the purpose of assessing occupational radiation dose as follows:

1. Radiation dosimeters are to be issued to anyone (employee/student/volunteer) whose assigned duties involve potential exposure to ionizing radiation and whom the Radiation Safety Officer has determined meets the requirements for individual monitoring devices as described in applicable federal or state regulations.
2. Radiation dosimeters may also be required for individuals in specific work areas or performing designated tasks, even if not required by state or federal regulations.
3. Radiation dosimeters may be offered as an option to individuals in areas where use of individual monitoring devices is not required by regulations, but where employees may have concerns about their level of radiation exposure. Optional use must be approved by the appropriate Department and/or Division Head and the RSO.
4. Radiation dosimeter readings are routinely reviewed by Radiation Safety Staff and appropriate follow-up action taken as may be indicated by the results.

Definitions:

For the purposes of this Policy and related procedures, the following terms are defined.

“ALARA Investigation Levels” are pre-set dosimeter reading values that trigger formal reviews by Radiation Safety Staff. [ALARA stands for “as low as reasonably achievable” and is a and is a

radiation protection philosophy whereby the objective is to keep radiation doses to individuals and populations as far below (maximum) regulatory limits “as is reasonably achievable”.]

“ALARA Investigation Level 1” means total radiation doses in any single calendar quarter (e.g., January 1 to March 31) above the following:

Effective Dose Equivalent (EDE) [“whole body”] above 125 mrem

Lens Dose Equivalent (LDE) above 375 mrem

Shallow (“Skin”) Dose Equivalent (SDE) above 1250 mrem

Extremity Dose reading above 1250 mrem

“ALARA Investigation Level 2” means total radiation doses in any single calendar quarter (e.g., January 1 to March 31) above the following:

Effective Dose Equivalent (EDE) [“whole body”] above 375 mrem

Lens Dose Equivalent (LDE) above 1125 mrem

Shallow (“Skin”) Dose Equivalent (SDE) above 3750 mrem

Extremity Dose reading above 3750 mrem

“Dose Equivalent” means the absorbed radiation dose to a human being, modified by appropriate radiation weighting factors, depending on the type of ionizing radiation source, or tissue/organ weighting factors (as may be necessary).

“Effective Dose Equivalent” (for the purposes of this policy) means the deep dose equivalent (tissue dose from external radiation sources at 1 cm below the surface of the skin) as measured by a radiation dosimeter, adjusted where appropriate by mathematical formulas to take into account the wearing of protective lead garments in the presence of diagnostic energy x-ray radiation.

“Extremity Dose” means the dose equivalent (tissue dose from external radiation sources) to the hands or forearms (below the elbows), or to the feet or lower legs (below the knees) determined for a tissue depth of 0.007 cm, as measured by a radiation dosimeter (e.g., ring dosimeter).

“Lens Dose Equivalent” means the dose equivalent (tissue dose from external radiation sources) determined for a tissue depth of 0.3 cm, as measured by a radiation dosimeter.

“Millirem (mrem)” is a unit of measure for any “dose equivalent” terms.

“Radiation dosimeters (individual monitoring devices)” means devices designed to be worn by a single individual for the assessment of dose equivalent such as film badges, thermoluminescence dosimeters (TLDs), pocket ionization chambers, etc.

“Shallow (“Skin”) Dose Equivalent” means the dose equivalent (tissue dose from external radiation sources) determined for a tissue depth of 0.007 cm, as measured by a radiation dosimeter.

Procedures:

[The following procedures and/or requirements have been approved by the Jefferson Radiation Safety Committee and instituted by the Radiation Safety Officer under his authority as established by federal and state regulations and institutional policy.]

Dosimeter Wearer Responsibilities

1. Regardless of whether the dosimeters are issued as required or optional, any employee who is issued any dosimeter is responsible for:
 - a. Wearing the dosimeter while on duty in those areas where there is a potential for radiation exposure.
 - b. Exchanging worn dosimeters for new ones on the first workday of each wear period (e.g., first day of month or calendar quarter, depending on assigned wear period), unless the new replacement dosimeters' arrival has been delayed, in which case the exchange may be made as soon as possible after the arrival of the new dosimeters).
 - c. Taking proper care of dosimeters, as described by Office of Radiation Safety instructions, to avoid damaging or contaminating the dosimeters.
 - d. Not storing dosimeters near radiation sources when not being worn.

- e. Not wearing dosimeters when being exposed to radiation sources for personal medical purposes (Notify Radiation Safety if this inadvertently occurs or you are administered a radiopharmaceutical).
 - f. Notifying Radiation Safety immediately whenever dosimeters are lost, accidentally damaged, name change is required, place of work has changed, or any reason why accidental exposure may have occurred (i.e., dosimeter accidentally left near source when not worn).
 - g. Returning all dosimeters and holders upon termination of duties with/near radiation sources.
 - h. Notifying Radiation Safety/dosimeter distributor of pending employment termination.
 - i. Otherwise wearing assigned dosimeters in accordance with any other Office of Radiation Safety instructions.
2. Failure to comply with guidelines and responsibilities listed above may result in forfeiture of (optional) dosimeters and/or disciplinary action.
 3. Any inquiries related to dosimeter use should be directed to the individual's supervisor, dosimeter distributor, or Radiation Safety.

Dosimeter Issuance:

Dosimeters are issued and distributed in accordance with internal Radiation Safety Department Procedure RSO-041: "Badging and Distribution"

Review of Dosimetry Readings

- 1) Dosimetry reports from Jefferson's dosimetry provider (currently Mirion Technologies) are to be reviewed by Radiation Safety staff within 5 business days of receipt.
- 2) The purposes of such reviews are to:
 - a) Determine if the reading is valid (accurately represents occupational radiation dose)
 - b) Identify possible opportunities for intervention to reduce future dose
- 3) The reviewer is to examine readings for the following:
 - a) Individual readings substantially above others doing similar work
 - b) Individual readings substantially above the wearer's past recorded readings
 - c) Evidence of misuse or damage to the dosimeter
 - d) Evidence of radioactive contamination to the dosimeter
 - e) Calendar quarter total dose readings above "ALARA Investigation Levels" (see definitions)
 - f) Evidence that the wrong analysis algorithms were applied by the vendor in generating the reported reading

- g) Evidence that the dosimeter had not been properly designated (e.g., “whole body” instead of “collar w/ EDE”)
 - h) Any other contributing factor as may be identified in the vendor’s report notes.
- 4) The reviewer is to look for possible causes for high or unusual readings including:
- a) Badges not being properly worn (wrong location, wrong orientation, worn outside of holder, etc.)
 - b) Sub-optimal work practices by the wearer
 - c) Dose to the dosimeter while not being worn (dosimeter left in room during procedures, dose stored near a radiation source or otherwise in a high background area, etc.)
 - d) Dose due to the wearer undergoing a medical procedure involving radiation (e.g., wearer administered a Nuclear Medicine radiopharmaceutical as a patient)
 - e) Dosimeter exposed to unusual environmental conditions (e.g., excessive heat)
 - f) Any other potential cause
- 5) Regarding the review/investigation process:
- a) Reviews/investigations may require personal contact with the wearer and /or wearer’s supervisor in order to perform an evaluation as per the preceding item 4.
 - b) All total readings above “ALARA Investigation Levels” are to be performed and documented. “Level 2” investigations should include direct contact with the wearer and evaluation of work practices where feasible, unless the readings are consistent with an historical pattern previously determined to be reasonable for the workload and practices employed.
 - c) All ALARA Level Investigations are to be documented.
 - d) Summary reports of readings above ALARA Investigation Levels are reported to the Radiation Safety Committee at its regular quarterly meetings.
- 6) Readings for dosimeters issued to specifically assess radiation dose to embryo/fetus of a pregnant individual are to be closely scrutinized with regard to cumulative dose being acquired through the gestation period, in case intervention (e.g., job reassignment) is necessary to assure that applicable dose limits are not exceeded.

Dose History Adjustments:

- 1) Readings determined to be due to non-occupational radiation sources, or to be inaccurate due to some identifiable cause may be adjusted.
- 2) Adjustments to the wearer’s occupational dose history are made after review by the Radiation Safety Officer by notifying the dosimetry vendor in writing, in accordance with the vendor’s procedures.

Reports to Wearers:

- 1. Dosimeter wearers will be notified of radiation doses as obtained as per the criteria specified in regulations contained in 10 CFR 19 or any other applicable state or federal regulation.

2. Individuals may be notified if their cumulative readings in any calendar quarter exceed pre-established 'investigation levels', or if any unusual or apparently 'high' dosimeter reading(s) are identified by Radiation Safety personnel.
3. Regular dose reports [excised of personal information other than dosimeter wearer id number] are provided to the dosimeter distribution group distributor for availability to wearers.
4. Individuals may also obtain their dosimeter results by making proper request to the Radiation Safety Department. Such requests generally are required to be made in writing to protect the individual's personal information from release to unauthorized personnel.

Confidentiality:

1. Individual radiation dose readings are considered as protected information and access to this information is limited to Radiation Safety personnel, supervisors, program directors, management personnel, members of the Radiation Safety Committee, regulatory inspectors, or others (with RSO approval) with a legitimate need-to-know,
2. Release of individual dose information in any circumstances is limited to the minimum necessary.
3. Any other personal information obtained by the Radiation Safety Department in the administration of the dosimeter program is treated as confidential.

Attachment(s): na

References and Citations:

Internal Radiation Safety Department Procedure RSO-041 "Badging and Distribution"

[Copies of the above references may be obtained by contacting the Office of Radiation Safety, 215-955-7813.]

Original Issue Date: 11/01/2000

Revision Date(s) : 07/31/2012; 08/07/2014

Review Date(s): 11/08/06, 05/16/2011, 07/31/2012, 7/01/14; 08/07/2014

Responsibility for maintenance of policy: John C. Keklak

[Signature on File]

Approved by:

John C.Keklak

Department Director

**Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals,
Inc.**

Departmental Policy Template/January 2010