

## PREGNANCY AND IONIZING RADIATION POLICY

Clinical experience, which involves the student being assigned to radiation areas, is a crucial part of this instructional program. Medical evidence however suggests that a fetus should not be exposed to any unnecessary radiation throughout the nine (9) month gestation period. **The student is under NO OBLIGATION to inform anyone of her pregnancy status.** The Radiography Program at Danville Regional Medical Center takes the position that the reporting of pregnancy to program officials be **voluntary on the part of the student**. It will be assumed that all students are NOT pregnant until such time that an official declaration has been made in writing to the Program Director. **Due to the nature of the clinical activities a medical release from the student's physician will be required for return to clinical activities.**

**If she so chooses, the student may elect to "rescind" her declaration of pregnancy at any time.**

Students must understand that they will be exposed to a variety of radiological examinations in order to complete the requirements of this program. Those who choose to notify the director of their pregnancy should do so as soon as possible. The student will then be scheduled to review radiation safety practices and will be provided an additional radiation monitoring device to be worn at waist level (Fetal level) at all times while in the clinical setting. This badge must always be worn under the protective lead aprons.

Upon confirmation of pregnancy the student may select one of the following scenarios:

- The student may elect to withdraw from the program and be reinstated at that same point in the program twelve (12) months hence, or
- The student may elect to remain in the program and be placed in a radiation environment that is in accordance with the NRC's regulations at 10 CFR 20.1208, "Dose to an Embryo/Fetus" where total fetal dose will not exceed 0.5 rem (5 mSv). All mandatory clinical experiences must be completed prior to program completion, or
- The student may elect to remain in the current and future clinical settings/rotations in an unaltered status for the duration of the program.

Regardless of the option selected, the student will be required to complete all aspects of the program in order to graduate.

The student should also be aware that until a pregnancy is declared, the normal dose rate for an occupationally exposed person of 5.0 rems (50 mSv) per year will apply. The lower dose rate will not take effect until such notification is made in writing to the Program Director.

A copy of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Regulatory Guide 8.13 is available for the students review and a copy will be provided upon request.

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I hereby declare my pregnancy and have selected the option checked above. I further acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the DRMC School of Health Professions Radiologic Technology Program **PREGNANCY AND IONIZING RADIATION POLICY**.

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Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Director Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date