

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER -  
SHREVEPORT

**PREGNANT WORKERS IN RADIATION AREAS**

Purpose:

To protect pregnant workers from over exposure to radiation, including radiation-producing machines or radioactive materials.

Policy:

1. If a worker becomes pregnant and is to be working around radiation-producing machines or radioactive materials, she is strongly encouraged to contact her supervisor immediately. The notification must be in writing and give the approximate date of conception. The supervisor must send a copy of the "Declaration of Pregnancy" to the Radiation Safety Office for use in assigning and monitoring film badges. The pregnancy must also be confirmed in writing by her physician.
2. Current Louisiana Radiation Regulations restrict the maximum dose of radiation to the fetus of 500 mRem during full term (50 mRem in any one month). Any pregnant worker who is likely to receive as much as 10 percent of the maximum must be monitored (50 mRem full term or 5 mRem per month). For those workers already wearing a dosimeter (film badge), no further determination need be made and a fetal monitoring dosimeter will be assigned upon receiving the written declaration of pregnancy. For those workers not currently wearing a dosimeter, yet may receive some radiation exposure during the pregnancy, the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) will determine whether or not she is likely to received the 10 percent dose. If so, the worker will be assigned a fetal monitoring dosimeter. It is the responsibility of the pregnant employee to properly wear and submit the dosimeter.
3. The fetal monitoring dosimeter is to be worn on the abdomen. If protective gear is worn, such as a lead apron, the fetal monitor will be placed underneath the apron. The wearing of a lead apron may or may not be indicated depending upon the source of radiation. The RSO will make the determination in consultation with the pregnant worker in those few cases where the wearing of lead aprons may not be indicated. Each month the RSO will carefully monitor the fetal dose and take appropriate steps to maintain the

fetal dose within the allowable limits. The worker must notify her supervisor, in writing, upon termination of the pregnancy.

4. Should an overexposure occur, the Radiation Safety Officer will contact the employee, appoint a physicist to estimate the dose, and designate a physician to consult with the employee concerning fetal exposure and follow-up.
5. The supervisor must contact Karen Kafai in the Safety office by e-mail after the employee has delivered the baby so that the fetal monitoring badge can be deleted from the radiation exposure report.



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Administrator

7/21/04\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Approved by Clinical Board: 5/15/01, 7/20/04