Pregnancy/Radiation Safety Protection

Verification Form

I verify by my signature that:

1. I have notified the Austin Community College Diagnostic Medical Imaging-Radiology Department Chair of my pregnancy voluntarily.
2. I have been advised by the Department Chair in regard to protective measures as well as the risks associated with radiation exposure to the fetus. I have also been advised to and/or have read the appendix to NRC 8.13.3.
3. I have received an additional dosimeter that I am wearing at the level of the pelvis to monitor the radiation dose to the fetus.
4. It has been explained to me that wearing a 0.5 mm lead equivalent protective apron, the dosage to the abdomen/pelvis can be reduced by more than 88% at 75 kVp. It has also been explained to me that a lead apron with 1.0 mm lead equivalent should be worn when the beam is above 75 kVp.
5. I have had the opportunity to discuss questions concerning radiation safety during my pregnancy with the Department Chair. Furthermore, I understand that should additional questions arise, I may again consult with this individual.

Please select one of the following Options:

____ Option #1: Leave of Absence During Pregnancy: If the student so decides, she may elect to leave the program during the pregnancy period.

- If the student decides to accept this option and leave the program, she must notify the Department Chair/Program Director in writing.
- An incomplete grade will be assigned for the course(s) in progress. The remaining coursework may be completed upon the student’s return, however it may not be feasible for the student to re-enter the program immediately since all courses are offered once a year.
- All didactic and clinical coursework must be completed prior to completion and graduation from the program.

____ Option #2: Remain in the Program with no modifications of her Clinical or Lab activities. If the student so decides, she may continue in the Program with the following requirements:

- The student will be provided a copy of NRC guide 8.13 for her review.
- The student’s class, lab, or clinical schedule will not be modified to postpone instructional activities that can result in increased radiation exposure to the student. These activities include fluoroscopy, portable radiography, surgery/C-arm procedures, angiography, and lab experiments utilizing the energized lab
equipment. Exceptions to this policy are any procedures involving Nuclear Medicine imaging or the implanting of “radioactive seeds” used in Brachytherapy. Because of the potential of an increased exposure to radiation during these Nuclear Medicine/Radiation Therapy Procedures, strict avoidance is recommended.

- The student is required to wear two exposure monitoring TLD’s:
  
  a. Fetal badge that is changed monthly. Note: the TLD must be positioned over the lower abdomen/pelvis and under the apron.
  
  b. Regular Radiation monitor/TLD. The TLD should be worn at the collar level outside the apron.

**Option #3: Remain in the Program with modification of her Clinical and/or Lab Activities.**

- The student is required to review and implement radiation safety practices as outlined by NRC guide 8.13
- The student may request modification of her schedule to postpone any procedures in class, lab, or clinic which can result in increased exposure to radiation. These activities include but are not limited to conventional fluoroscopy, portable radiography, Surgery/C-arm procedures, angiography, and lab experiments/projects using the energized lab equipment. It should be noted that the student cannot graduate from the program until any clinical competencies using the listed modalities/procedures have been successfully completed and competency is achieved.
- The student is required to wear two exposure monitoring devices:
  
  a. Fetal Badge that is changed monthly
  
  b. Regular TLD that is changed quarterly.
- The student should wear a lead apron of 0.5 mm lead (\(pb\)) equivalency during any exposure and must always stay behind the control console for maximum protection.

**Note:** It is the students right to also withdraw her pregnancy declaration at any time. Should a pregnant student elect to undeclared her pregnancy, she must do so in writing to the Program Director/Department Chair.

____________________________________  __________________
Student Signature                        Date

____________________________________  __________________
Program Director/Department Chair      Date