EMORY POLICY ON RADIATION AND PREGNANCY

As soon as a radiation worker determines that she is pregnant, she should (unless privacy is desired) advise her supervisor and declare her pregnancy in writing to the Environmental Health and Safety Office giving approximate date of conception. A Radiation Safety professional from the Environmental Health and Safety Office will review past radiation exposure history of the declared pregnant radiation worker and her job function and determine if radiation restrictions should be applied. If so, these restrictions will be discussed with the individual and her supervisor and will be provided to both in writing. A copy of the document is "Guide for Instruction Concerning Prenatal Radiation Exposure" will be given to the declared pregnant radiation worker as required by the State, NRC and OSHA. The employee and supervisor (unless privacy is desired) will sign documentation that this information has been given.

The Environmental Health and Safety Office will issue a monthly fetal monitor for the declared pregnant radiation worker to wear at the waist in addition to her regular dosimeter.

All lead barriers in the university are designed so an individual, if she were behind the barrier for the full 40 hours of a week, would receive less than 10 mrem to the surface of her body and much less to the fetus. NCRP, NRC and the State of Georgia allow the fetus of a declared pregnant radiation worker to receive 500 mrem, sum of internal and external exposure, during the nine months of pregnancy.

It is recommended that pregnant nurses not care for patients containing therapeutic quantities of a radionuclide or brachytherapy sources.

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