



Associate of Science in Radiography (ASR)

RADIOLOGIC SCIENCES & IMAGING DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION OF PREGNANCY PROCEDURE

(Revised 8-15-2014)

Pregnancy will not be grounds for dismissal. However, academic and clinical standards will not be lowered. It is recommended that the student inform the Program Director (in writing) to declare her pregnancy so that the requirements of 10 CFR 20.2106 (e) may be met. The Radiologic Sciences and Imaging department will maintain the records of dose to the embryo/fetus with the records of dose to the pregnant woman. The declaration of pregnancy will be kept on file in the Student Record.

Under the current regulations (which are consistent with the Supreme Court decision in the case of UAW vs. Johnson Controls), a woman has the right to choose whether or not to declare her pregnancy; including the right to revoke her declaration after it is made. A woman's withdrawal of her declaration of pregnancy does not alter the requirement of 10 CFR 20.2106 (e) that the school maintain the records of dose to the embryo/fetus that were prepared as a result of the woman's declaration of pregnancy. A student that chooses to withdraw her declaration of pregnancy should inform the Program Director (in writing) of her decision.

A student may opt to continue in the program without modification or use her allowed semester absences for traditional post-delivery time off. This allows the student to complete all requirements for completion of the program within the scheduled time period. If the student needs more than the allowed semester absences, a make-up schedule must be arranged and approved by the program director and clinical coordinators. The student also has the option to schedule a Leave of Absence (LOA). In this case, due to the cohort style of the program, program completion and the registry date may be moved to the following year.

The following information should be read by and explained to each current or prospective female student. All female students are required to sign a Pregnancy Policy form to verify their understanding of the pregnancy policy.

1. The requirements of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the recommendations of the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP) recognize the unusual susceptibility of unborn children to the adverse effects of ionizing radiation. To comply with these requirements and recommendations, every fertile female who may be occupationally exposed to ionizing radiation must be instructed

in special health concerns associated with exposure to radiation in the event of pregnancy.

2. The entire Pregnancy Policy must be read by every fertile female student that is subject to occupational exposure to ionizing radiation in the course of her training in the Radiologic Technology program. All students will be given time to ask questions and are required to sign the Pregnancy Policy form to verify understanding.
3. If a student suspects she is pregnant, she should be evaluated by a physician and the pregnancy verified. Upon verification, it is recommended that she notify the Program Director, as stated above. Changes to the clinical schedule may be made to remove the pregnant student from higher exposure areas.

Some recent studies have shown that the risk of leukemia and other malignancies in children increases if the mother is exposed to a significant amount of radiation during pregnancy. According to a report by the National Academy of Sciences, the incidence of leukemia among children under 10 years of age in the U.S. could rise from 3.7 cases in 10,000 children to 5.6 cases in 10,000 if the children were exposed to 1 REM of radiation before birth (a REM is a measure of occupational radiation exposure). Although other studies have shown a much smaller effect of radiation exposure, all students should be aware of any possible risk so that appropriate measures may be taken.

The following facts should be noted:

1. The first three months of pregnancy are the most critical, so students should act quickly when they suspect they may be pregnant.
2. At the present occupational exposure limits, the actual risk to the unborn is small; however, experts disagree on the exact amount of risk.
3. There is no need to be concerned about sterility or loss of ability to bear children due to occupational radiation exposure received during participation in the Radiologic Technology program. The radiation dose necessary to produce such effects is more than 100 times greater than the present occupational exposure limits.
4. The recommended dose limit during pregnancy is 0.5 REM for the entire gestational period. Students are encouraged to take special action to reduce their radiation exposure, just as they might stop smoking or climb stairs more carefully to reduce possible risks to their unborn child.

I certify that I have read and understand Cox College Radiologic Sciences & Imaging Department's procedure on pregnancy notification.

Student signature

Date