

**ARMSTRONG COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
SCHOOL OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

<b>Policy Title:</b> Student Pregnancy Policy	<b>Policy Number:</b> 31 Page 1 of 2
<b>Original Date:</b> 10/86	<b>Revision Date:</b> 10/86, 12/87, 5/91, 10/96, 5/97, 4/99, 4/12, 7/15, 7/16, 4/18
<b>Last Review Date:</b> 4/18 Reviewed by Radiation Safety Officer – May 2018	

The following policy is based on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Regulatory Guide 8.13. A complete copy of this guide will be made available to the student upon request. The program has established the following policy directed toward the protection of the declared pregnant student and the unborn fetus from the effects of ionizing radiation.

Disclosing pregnancy is a completely voluntary decision of the student and not a requirement of the program; although disclosure is strongly encouraged. If a decision is made to declare pregnancy, the student:

- Will submit the declaration in writing to the Educational Coordinator. Form #28 (Declaration of Pregnancy form) is available to the student for this purpose and is found in the student’s Policy and Procedure Manual.
- Will meet with the Radiation Physicist/Radiation Safety Officer, along with program officials, for confidential counseling in regard to radiation safety practices and the risks associated with radiation exposure to the fetus (Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Regulatory Guide 8.13).
- Has the right to withdraw the declaration of pregnancy at any point in time. A withdrawal of declaration of pregnancy must also be in writing and presented to the Educational Coordinator. Form #88 (Voluntary Undeclaration of Pregnancy) is available to the student for this purpose and is found in the Policy and Procedure Manual.

Once a pregnancy is declared, the student must choose from the following options:

**Option #1** – The student will remain in the program during the pregnancy. If the student so decides, she may continue with both didactic and clinical components of the program without interruption and under the following requirements:

- Submit a physical examination report from her physician documenting that she may continue to participate in all aspects of the program.
- Will wear a second radiation dosimeter (fetal dosimeter) to be worn at waist level; and when applicable, under a lead apron. The other radiation monitoring device, which was issued at the onset of education, will be worn at the collar and outside the lead apron, when applicable. Will wear both dosimeters at all times while in the clinical education areas. These badges will be changed the first of each month and monitored by the Radiation Physicist/Radiation Safety Officer.
- Should wear a wrap around apron during exposures to radiation (pregnancy apron is available).

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- Will be subjected to the fetal radiation dose to not exceed 0.5 rem (5 mSv); not to exceed 0.05 rem (0.5 mSv) per month during the entire pregnancy. This limited dose will begin once the pregnancy is declared.
- At the time of delivery, a leave of absence will be given and the position in the program will be held for 6 weeks after delivery. This time may be extended if contraindicated in writing by the student's physician. The student will then return to the program to complete her clinical and didactic education.

**Option #2** - The student will attend didactic classes only. The number of clinical hours that the student does not complete must be made up before she receives her certificate and before she is eligible to take the ARRT certification and registration examination. Didactic hours that the student does not complete must also be made up. The student will not exceed 40 hours per week or 10 hours per day when making up time. Clinical time will comply with the 1:1 technologist/student ratio. Clinical assignments are at the discretion of program officials in order to complete all clinical requirements.

**Option #3** – The student will leave the program and re-enter the program at an appropriate time, which will be determined by program officials, since course work is presented in a chronological order. The student may be required to begin the program again depending on the student's place in the program at the time of withdrawal.

The student's physician must approve in writing her return to the program for any of the above options. Regardless of which option is chosen, all clinical and didactic requirements must be completed before the student is eligible to receive her certificate. The student should be aware that this may entail additional clinical training if the absence from clinical education has been substantial or if clinical skills need further enhancement. Students who select Options #2 and #3 may only re-enter the program if the student enrollment does not exceed JRCERT mandated capacity.

*I have read the policies and understand their content. I have decided to follow plan number \_\_\_\_\_.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Declaration of Pregnancy Form – Form #28**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the ACMH School of Radiologic Technology Student Pregnancy Policy (Policy 31) and wish to declare my pregnancy. I understand that this declaration is not mandatory; and by declaring my pregnancy, the following applies:

1. My radiation dose equivalent limit to the embryo/fetus will be 500 mrem (0.5 rem/5 mSv) for the gestational period; not to exceed 50 mrem (0.05 rem/.5 mSv) per month. This limited radiation dose will begin when the pregnancy is declared.
2. I will be issued a second radiation dosimeter (fetal dosimeter) to be worn at waist level; and when applicable, under a lead apron. The other radiation monitoring device, which was issued at the onset of education, will be worn at the collar and outside of the lead apron. Both radiation dosimeter badges must be worn at all times while in the clinical education areas. These badges will be changed the first of each month and processed monthly and monitored by the Radiation Safety Officer.
3. I may continue my assigned clinical rotations with no reassignment of clinical duties unless I receive cumulative exposures in excess of the 500 mrem limit.

The approximate date of conception was \_\_\_\_\_ and my expected due date is \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Radiation Dosimeter Badge Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Official's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Radiation Safety Officer's Signature

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**Written Documentation to Withdraw Declaration of Pregnancy  
Form #88**

Without a voluntary written disclosure of pregnancy or with submission of a written withdrawal of declaration, a student is considered not pregnant regardless of the obviousness of the condition.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am withdrawing my previous declaration of pregnancy. I understand that I am considered “not pregnant”. With the withdrawal of declaration of pregnancy, the lower dose limit will no longer apply and the monthly fetal dose monitor will be discontinued.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Official's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Radiation Safety Officer's Signature