

RADIOLOGY PROTOCOL

Radiation safety protocol as defined by Wisconsin Administrative code 157 shall always be adhered to during the MOM event. Only people previously trained (including dental students) in the use of dental x-ray equipment shall be operators during the event. This does not apply to those assisting the operators.

- 1) Just as in a dental office or clinic, Universal Precautions must be adhered to. This includes wearing personal protective equipment. Gloves, masks, eye protection, and gowns must be used during patient treatment. Everyone providing treatment shall wear disposable gowns. Gloves, masks, and disposable gowns will be provided. All providers, including assistants, are expected to bring their own eye protection.
- 2) The paper charts are NOT to be touched with gloved hands at any time.
- 3) Verify informed consent has been initialed.
- 4) Patient Safety (As Low As Reasonable Achievable-ALARA). To meet intent of ALARA:
 - Use lowest possible radiation exposure for each exam to obtain a diagnostic image.
 - Avoid repeat x-rays by setting the correct technique.
 - Accurately position the tube head and image receptor.
 - Provide the patient, especially children and women in child-bearing years, with a thyroid collar and lead apron (gonadal shielding), if requested.
- 5) At all times the operator and observers shall be a minimum of 2 meters (6.5 feet) from the x-ray source during exposure. This especially applies to Pans where the source moves during exposure. Approved battery powered dental x-ray devices (i.e. Nomad Pro2) are exempt from the 2 meter safety distance rule and from wearing the lead apron requirement when manufacturer specifications are followed, i.e. use of backscatter shield.
- 6) Maximum protection from backscatter radiation exists when the Nomad Pro2 backscatter shield is positioned as close to the patient as possible, is perpendicular to the operator (with the patient's head tilted if needed), and the backscatter shield is fully extended toward the patient and parallel to the operator.
- 7) The use of appropriate sensor holders and positioners should ensure that the operator does not hold the sensor during exposure.
- 8) Panoramic or intraoral images will be taken based on the recommendations of dental triage modified by the procedure(s) the patient is scheduled to have done.
 - Multiple extractions in more than one quadrant shall require a Pan
 - Single extractions or extractions in only one quadrant can be imaged with PAs of that area
 - Teeth obviously having large decay present require a PA to determine restorability
 - Teeth that encountered a pulpal exposure or excessive decay during a restorative procedure require a PA for extraction or to determine if endo is indicated
 - An extraction procedure may require a PA as part of postoperative diagnosis

- 9) Proper infection control procedures as recommended by the CDC and the WDA shall be adhered to for all patients.
- 10) All x-rays are to be recorded on the patient record in **BLUE** pen. Staple the x-ray to the back of the patient record form with the x-ray facing out.
- 11) If you have an emergency, there are EMT services on site. Stay with the patient, send someone else to alert the department head who will immediately radio for an EMT. Hold up the EMT station card so the EMT can quickly identify where to go once they have been radioed.
- 12) **DO NOT** adjust chair height, ask dental equipment technician or department lead.