

**Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of X-ray Compliance**

**Policy for Facilities seeking an Exemption from Gonadal Shielding Required by N.J.A.C.
7:28-15.9(a)3.**

“No person shall operate or permit the operation of certified or uncertified medical radiographic and fluoroscopic equipment or therapy simulation systems unless the following conditions are met: Gonadal shielding of not less than 0.5 mm lead equivalent shall be used on a patient during radiographic and fluoroscopic procedures, except for cases in which this would interfere with the diagnostic procedure. If the patient is sterile, the use of gonadal shielding may be omitted.”

Instruction: As part of your request for an exemption, you must complete and submit this form.

Exemption Limitation: If an exemption is granted, the exemption is limited to abdominal and pelvic radiographic procedures.

Exemption Conditions: If an exemption is granted, you are required to:

1. Develop and implement an educational policy for radiologic technologist and physicians involved in the radiographic imaging of the abdomen and pelvis to include:
 - (a) The NCRP Statement No. 13 and Companion to NCRP Statement No. 13, January 12, 2021 findings that gonadal shielding does not contribute to reducing risk from x-ray exposure and has the unintended consequences of increasing exposure and loss of valuable diagnostic information;
 - (b) Reference materials;
 - (c) Skills on how to provide this information to the ordering physicians, patients, parents, and legal guardians; and
 - (d) Methods of monitoring and maintaining compliance.
2. The educational program must be provided to licensed radiologic technologists and to physicians performing radiographic procedures to the abdomen and pelvis within 3 months of the granted exemption and at least annually. Newly employed radiologic technologists and physicians performing radiologic procedures must be trained within 3 months of employment. Documentation of training must be maintained for 3 years for the Department’s review.
3. A report of monitoring and compliance/noncompliance with the educational program must be performed at least every 6 months and must be maintained for a period of 3 years for the Department’s review.
4. Provide gonadal shielding if requested by the patient, parent, or legal guardian.

Failure to comply with these conditions will result in enforcement action and possible withdrawal of your exemption.

The following suggested policy template is provided and discussed as an aid to comply with the above conditions:

Develop and Implement an Educational Policy Template

I, _____ (Name of Registrant/Facility Owner) _____ (Date) agree to implement the following:

- a. Within 3 months of the issued exemption or employment, an educational program will be provided to all licensed radiologic technologists and to physicians performing radiologic procedures that expose the abdomen and pelvis to ionizing radiation. -Educational material will include the approved exemption, NCRP Statement No. 13 and Companion to NCRP Statement No. 13 dated January 12, 2021, and related reference material will be provided and discussed. The educational program will be repeated at least annually, and documentation of training will be maintained for 3 years.

Educational Program reference materials:

- i) NCRP January 2021 Statement 13:
<https://ncrponline.org/wp-content/themes/ncrp/PDFs/Statement13.pdf>
- ii) NCRP Companion Statement:
https://ncrponline.org/wp-content/themes/ncrp/PDFs/Stat13_Companion_Comm.pdf
- iii) NCRP Trifold:
https://ncrponline.org/wp-content/themes/ncrp/PDFs/NCRP_Gonadal_Shielding_Trifold.pdf
- iv) American Association of Medical Physicists:
https://aapm.org/org/policies/documents/CARES_FAQs_Patient_Shielding.pdf
- v) Other:

- b. The following techniques (e.g.: role playing, handouts such as NCRP Trifold) will be used to train technologists and physicians in communicating shielding information to ordering physicians, patients, parents, and legal guardians:

_____ (fill-in)

- c. The following person(s) _____ have been named as individual(s) who will be available to answer questions of ordering physicians, patients, parents, or legal guardians, if not sufficiently addressed by office staff.

- d. The following person(s) _____ will be responsible for monitoring these conditions for compliance. A report of

monitoring compliance and compliance/noncompliance must be performing at least every 6 months and must be maintained for a period of 3 years.

- e. Gonadal shielding will be provided if requested by the patient, parent, or legal guardian.

Facility Representative/Owner Signature

Date

Complete the following statement ONLY if the facility will implement their own educational policy instead of the Suggested Educational Policy:

_____ (Facility Name) has elected **NOT** to implement the above **Suggested Educational Policy Template**. However, we will instead implement the conditions of the exemption in accordance with the attached educational policy.

Facility Representative/Owner Signature

Date

For Bureau Use Only:

Status

Date

Official Department Signature
