

Jefferson Community College
School of Radiologic Technology
PREGANCY POLICY—PROTECTING THE EMBRYO/FETUS

Declared Pregnant Student:

A student should inform the program officials, in writing, of her pregnancy and the estimated date of conception. A student has the right to declare their pregnancy, at such time the precautions listed below will be followed. A student also has the right to not declare their pregnancy, in which case, the student will be treated as though she were not pregnant. Once a student has declared her pregnancy, the student also has the right to undeclared her pregnancy at any time. This is in accordance with Federal and State laws.

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement (NCRP) recommends that the maximum permissible dose equivalent to the embryo-fetus from occupational exposure to the expectant mother should be limited to 0.5 REM (50 milliSeivert) for the entire gestation period. It is recommended by the NCRP that persons involved in the occupation should notify the supervisor immediately if pregnancy is suspected. Through proper instruction of all safety precautions and personnel monitoring, and strict adherence to these precautions, it can be possible to limit all occupational exposure to under 0.5 REM per year and prevent fetal dose limits from being surpassed.

Students enrolled in the JCC Radiologic Technology Program are instructed in proper safety precautions and personnel monitoring prior to being admitted to any ionizing radiation area. Students are required to abide by all safety precautions, and the importance of keeping exposure as low as practical through a combination of time, distance and shielding is stressed. Due to the number and variety of courses in the curriculum and the importance of maintaining a rotation schedule through the various assigned areas without interruption; should any student suspect pregnancy, they are recommended to report it immediately to the Program Coordinator.

If a student declares pregnancy, she will:

1. Counsel with Program Faculty and the Radiation Safety Officer regarding the nature of potential radiation injury associated with interuterine exposure, the regulations established by the NCRP, and the required preventive measures to be taken throughout the gestation period.
2. Complete Declaration of Pregnancy Form
3. Submit in writing within 24 hours, her decision as to remaining in the program.
4. Submit a statement from her physician verifying pregnancy and expected due date. The statement should include the physician's recommendation as to which of the following options would be advisable:
 - a. Continued full-time status with limited scheduled rotations in fluoroscopy (fluoroscopy not to be scheduled during first trimester).
 - b. Withdrawal from the program (duration of one calendar year) and resume full-time status upon return to the program
 - c. Complete withdrawal
5. Be required, if maintaining full-time status, to abide by the following:
 - a. Strict adherence to all safety precautions for protection purposes
 - b. Submit monthly statements from her physician as to any changes or problems in her pregnancy and advisability of continuation full time
 - c. Wear two (2) personnel monitoring devices, one placed on the collar (outside lead apron) and one placed at the abdomen (inside lead apron) for fetal monitoring. Readings will be monitored closely by the RSO (Program Coordinator), and the student will be subject to an immediate leave of absence from the clinical environment if at any point the RSO deems it necessary
 - d. At any time the pregnant student feels that she is working in an unsafe area or under conditions she feels are detrimental the student should remove herself immediately and report to the Clinical Coordinator, Clinical Instructor, Departmental Supervisor, and/or Program Coordinator.
 - e. At no time and for no reason will the pregnant student place herself in the primary beam of radiation.

6. Be informed that, dependent on the type of course(s), degree of difficulty of the course(s) her academic standing and length of time out, she may be required to re-take the course(s) in their entirety.

7. Be required to complete upon her return all clinical competencies and rotations missed or not completed prior to and during her maternity leave. In addition, she will be evaluated by Program Faculty in those clinical competencies completed prior to time out and will be subject to participation for review purposes should the Faculty deem it necessary.

8. Return to full-time status as soon as possible after delivery, but only on the express written permission of her physician. A vacancy will be held for the student for a maximum of six (6) months following delivery. After that time, she will be considered a withdrawal.

9. Realize that the student must complete, upon her return, all requirements for graduation, including length of time in the program, required courses, clinical competencies and rotations. No diploma will be issued until all requirements have been successfully met.

Jefferson Community College School of Radiologic Technology
Declaration of Pregnancy Form

I, _____ do hereby make this voluntary declaration of pregnancy. The estimated date of delivery is _____.

I understand that I am making this voluntary declaration of pregnancy in compliance with the requirements of Regulatory Guide, 8.13 of the *Nuclear Regulatory Commission* as required by the **Standards of an Accredited Educational Program in Radiological Sciences** from the *Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology*.

After having explained to me the potential for harm to my unborn fetus from radiation exposure during my clinical training, as well as all available options, I have decided to (please initial):

_____ 1. Withdraw from the program and be reinstated the following year at the point I withdrew. Incomplete competencies must be completed before graduation.

_____ 2. Remain in the program in the capacity of a full-time student, assuming all risk of harm to my unborn fetus. I shall indemnify and hold harmless the Jefferson Community College, faculty member, the program affiliates and their respective agents, representatives and insurers from all claims for damages arising from any harm to my fetus resulting from my failure to promptly advise the Program Director of my pregnancy. The student's clinical schedule will be modified to possibly minimize occupational exposure. Incomplete competencies must be completed before graduation.

_____ 3. Remain in the program with no scheduled fluoroscopic rotations during the first trimester of pregnancy. During the second trimester, the student will resume the fluoroscopic rotation assuming all risk of harm to my unborn fetus. I shall indemnify and hold harmless the Jefferson Community College, faculty member, the program affiliates and their respective agents, representatives and insurers from all claims for damages arising from any harm to my fetus resulting from my failure to promptly advise the Program Director of my pregnancy. The student's clinical schedule will be modified to possibly minimize occupational exposure. Incomplete competencies must be completed before graduation.

While scheduled in a clinical radiation area, the pregnant student must wear:

- a. an occupational monitoring badge at the collar level (outside the apron).
- b. a fetal monitoring badge at the waste level (inside the apron).
- c. 0.5 – 1.0 mm lead equivalent wrap-around apron during procedures involving fixed or mobile fluoroscopy. Note: if a wrap-around apron is not available, the student must wear two standard aprons (one worn to the front and one worn backwards). Sufficient distance from the radiation path should be maintained at all times.
- d. standard 0.5 – 1.0 mm lead equivalent lead apron during all portable radiographic procedures. The student must stand at least 6 ft. from the exposure path.

The pregnant student must practice the ALARA concepts (minimum exposure time, maximum distance, maximum shielding) at all times. The one month embryo/fetus accumulated dose shall not exceed 50 mRem (0.5 mSv). The nine month embryo/fetus accumulated dose shall not exceed 500 mRem (5 mSv). Should the monthly accumulated dose (occupational or embryo/fetal dose) exceeds the recommended standard, the student must withdraw from the clinical rotation and be reassigned to the clinic after delivery. Incomplete competencies must be completed before graduation.

Student Signature

Date

Program Director Signature

Date

Radiation Safety Officer Signature (if option 4 is chosen)

Date