

Title	Radiographic Quality	Policy #	02-006
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POLICY

In an effort to maximize the quality of diagnostic images produced by all Radiologic Technologists, the following procedures must be adhered to on a routine basis.

PROCEDURE

1. All images submitted to the Radiologist **MUST** have the following:
 - a. Exposure factors selected appropriately to achieve excellent radiographic quality. Using Computed Radiography, an LGM of 1.9 to 2.5 must be demonstrated.
 - b. Exposure factors for Digital Radiography must also be set to ensure excellent radiographic quality (i.e., 200 – 800).
 - c. Positioning should be consistent with protocols outlined in the department's diagnostic procedure manual.
 - d. Lead anatomical markers must be placed at the time of exposure and clearly visible on all radiographic images. Application of lead markers using computerized annotation is **NOT** permitted. If the lead marker is not present or clearly visible, the radiograph must be repeated. (Please see related policy 02-Use of Lead Markers to Label Radiographs).
 - e. Visible collimation, coned to the region of interest, must be seen on all radiographic images. Collimation is applied prior to exposure. Applying collimation using computer enhancement is not acceptable. "Cropping" of the image is not acceptable. Post processing to outline the collimated image is permissible. In the event that a physician has requested that the technologist include additional anatomy on the image, the technologist should comply and subsequently document this request in the technologist comment section of the Radiology Information System (RIS). In addition, exam codes (charges) must be changed in the RIS to reflect what was actually done.
 - f. Refer to Gonadal Shielding Policy for applicable usage. (Policy # 05-005)
 - g. All overlying material should be removed from the area of interest before performing the radiograph. This includes leads, monitor wires, oxygen tubing, diapers, splints, braces, bandages, hand/fingers of parent/person assisting with restraint, etc. In addition, all clothing including diapers and clothing snaps should be moved from the region of interest.

Technologists are encouraged to contact a supervisor or manager for assistance as needed.

Approved by:

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Date

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Date

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