



Department: Dental

Number: HHS-5116 D

Attachment: _____

Form: Patient Radiation Safety

Date: July 1998 Revised: 07/01, 07/07, 12/12, 06/13

Approved by:  Date: 9/24/13

Policy Statement:

The dental profession is committed to delivering the highest quality of care to each of its individual patients and applying advancements in technology and science to continually improve the oral health status of the U.S. population. These guidelines were developed to serve as an adjunct to the dentist's professional judgment of how to best use diagnostic imaging for each patient. Radiographs can help the dental practitioner evaluate and definitively diagnose many oral diseases and conditions.

If a radiograph is necessary it is no longer a requirement of the Minnesota Health Department or a recommendation of the American Dental Association to have the patient wears a lead apron. A lead apron is recommended for children, women of child bearing age, and pregnant women. Ne-Ia-Shing Dental Clinic will continue to use the lead apron as necessary Ne Ia Shing has implemented digital radiology to achieve a reduction in radiation exposure to patients as well occupational exposure.

Purpose:

To ensure patient radiation safety during diagnostic radiological procedures according to the MDH rules and regulations and the ADA recommendations.

Procedure:

1. Pregnant Patients

- A) Only take radiographs if mother and child are at risk of infection and with the patients consent.
- B) If patient is pregnant, auxiliary staff will immediately inform the Dentist. See if the DDS would like to continue with the x-ray. Indicate in the patient chart what the recommendation is.
- C) If pregnant patient is to have x-rays, shield patient with lead apron.

2. Patients in reproductive ages (10-50)

- A) Before radiographs are taken on female patients, ask if there's a possibility of pregnancy. Document response in the patients chart. Precautions should be taken to minimize radiation exposure as recommended by the ADA.

3. General Dental Radiographic Safety

- A) Except for the patients, only the staff required for the dental procedure shall be in the operatory during the radiograph exposure.
- B) Intraoral film holders must be used. Film must not be routinely held by hand, unless absolutely necessary.
- C) Only the patient shall be in the useful beam.
- D) Inspection and testing of the facility, X-ray machines, radiation monitoring badges.
- E) Training and certification of staff.