

OCCUPATIONAL IONIZING RADIATION EXPOSURE POLICY

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) mandates that sponsoring institutions assure a safe working environment for their residents/fellows. In the area of occupational ionizing radiation exposure the responsibility for residents/fellows in University of Connecticut School of Medicine GME Programs is shared by the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) or designee, the resident/fellow, the UConn Health Radiation Safety Committee, the UConn Health Radiation Safety Officer, the Radiation Safety Officer at each site and the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at UConn Health. The purpose of this policy is to outline the responsibilities and the mechanism for tracking resident/fellow radiation exposures from UConn Health activities and all affiliated institutional sources of ionizing radiation.

- I. The DIO or designee shall:
 - a. In consultation with the Director of Radiation Safety, the Clinical Director of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the Program Directors, determine which residents/fellows may be occupationally exposed to ionizing radiation. Residents/fellows potentially exposed require monitoring in accordance with federal and state law and as stipulated in this policy. There may be additional monitoring requirements imposed by the affiliated sites and these requirements remain the responsibility of those sites and their respective radiation safety officers.
 - b. Provide an orientation on radiation safety for all incoming residents/fellows, including a more detailed orientation for those residents/fellows who may be occupationally exposed to ionizing radiation and thus require monitoring as outlined in section I.a. of this policy.
 - c. Maintain a master list of individuals identified in item I.a. containing assignment location with updates as residents/fellows leave or are added to the program, and provide updated copies of this master list to the Director of Radiation Safety.
 - d. Require that residents/fellows, their Program Directors and affiliated sites comply with all requirements of this policy.
 - e. Require that UConn Health monitoring devices be worn at all times while working at any affiliated site for those residents/fellows identified in section I.a. of this policy.
 - f. A GME Office designee will work with Program Coordinators to exchange radiation monitoring badges. This designee shall work with and contact Program Coordinators to collect resident/fellow badges worn for a month's time, issue new badges to residents/fellows and return collected monitoring badges to the UConn Health Radiation Safety Office in a timely manner.
 - g. Provide assistance as requested from the Program Directors, the Clinical Director of Occupational and Environmental Medicine or designee, the Radiation Safety Officers of affiliated site, the Director of Radiation Safety and the Radiation Safety Committee to implement any actions necessary.
 - h. Provide the Office of Radiation Safety a list of Program Coordinators.
 - i. Notify female residents/fellows of the UConn Health's Pregnancy Declaration form if limitation of fetal ionizing radiation exposure is desired.
- II. The UConn Health Radiation Safety Officer shall:
 - a. Assist the DIO or designee and the Program Directors in identification of those residents/fellows who may be exposed to ionizing radiation and require monitoring.
 - b. Assist the DIO or designee and the Program Directors in the orientation of all incoming residents/fellows on radiation safety, with a more detailed orientation program for those residents/fellows described in section I.a. of this policy.

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- c. Interpret resident/fellow exposures received at UConn Health and/or affiliated sites, and keep the DIO and the appropriate Program Director informed of any exposures exceeding the UConn Health ALARA goals.
- d. Each month coordinate with the GME Office designee and Program Coordinators to distribute and collect monitoring badges from each resident/fellow identified in section I.a. of this policy.
- e. Inform the ADIO or designee, the appropriate Program Director and the Clinical Director of Occupational and Environmental Medicine or designee of any actions taken by the UConn Health Radiation Safety Officer and/or the Radiation Safety Officer from an affiliated institution to limit or suspend a resident's/fellow's work as a result of any radiation exposure monitoring report or knowledge of unusual exposures at affiliated institutions.
- f. Notify the Radiation Safety Officer(s) at the affiliated institution(s) should a resident/fellow sustain an unusual radiation exposure.

III. The Resident/fellow shall:

- a. Participate in the required educational programs on radiation safety identified by the DIO or designee and the UConn Health Radiation Safety Officer.
- b. Prior to working as an occupationally exposed worker at UConn Health or other affiliated site, contact the Program Coordinator and obtain appropriate radiation monitoring devices as required by established policy.
- c. Wear the monitoring device issued by the UConn Health Office of Radiation Safety at all affiliated sites, and return each UConn Health monitoring device to the Program Coordinator by the end of the first week of every month.
- d. Be knowledgeable of the maximum permissible exposure limits and consequences of exceeding these limits.
- e. Provide the Clinical Director of Occupational and Environmental Medicine or designee a signed declaration of pregnancy with a request to protect the fetus from radiation exposure should you desire limitation of fetal exposure. A copy of the "UConn Health Pregnancy Declaration" form may be found as the last page of this write-up.

IV. The Clinical Director of Occupational and Environmental Medicine or designee shall:

- a. Assist the DIO or designee and the Program Directors in the discharge of their responsibilities as described in this policy.
- b. Inform and provide guidance to the Program Directors and Radiation Safety Officers when a resident/fellow has submitted a pregnancy declaration.

V. The Program Director shall:

- a. Insure the resident/fellow is aware of and complies with all aspects of this policy.
- b. Insure that radiation monitoring badges are exchanged in a timely manner.

VI. Program Coordinator

- a. Shall collect and distribute film badge monitors to all residents/fellows in a timely manner.
- b. Shall receive and return badges issued by the Office of Radiation Safety, and act as a contact.

VII. Policy Concerning Radiation Exposures Approaching Regulatory Limits

- a. The Director of Radiation Safety, the DIO, the Program Director, the Chairperson of the Radiation Safety Committee and the Clinical Director of Occupational and Environmental Medicine or

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designee shall determine jointly what actions need to be taken to prevent exceeding accepted radiation exposure limits.

- b. The Program Director shall notify the resident/fellow concerning the actions resulting from item VII.a.
- c. If an abnormal exposure occurs while working at the UConn Health, the Director of Radiation Safety shall meet with the resident/fellow and determine possible causes of the radiation exposure. A review of the work area will be done, and suggestions made to reduce future exposures if appropriate.
- d. If an abnormal exposure occurs at an affiliated institution, the Program Director shall contact the appropriate Radiation Safety Officer. They will jointly review the work site where the exposure occurred and identify any working condition which may lead to an additional exposure which would produce a total exposure in excess of established regulatory limits. The recommendations made during the meeting described in VII.a. must be instituted to minimize any future radiation exposures.

VIII. Policy Concerning Radiation Exposures Exceeding Regulatory Limits

- a. The Director of Radiation Safety and/or the Program Director shall notify the DIO or designee about the exposure, who shall then convene an ad-hoc committee to include the Director of Radiation Safety, the Radiation Safety Officer of the affiliated institution (if appropriate), the Program Director, the Clinical Director of Occupational and Environmental Medicine or designee and the Chairman of the Radiation Safety Committee to decide, within the context of Federal and State Statutes, what changes in work assignment are required to assure no further exposure to radiation occurs.
- b. The UConn Health Director of Radiation Safety shall summarize the results of deliberations of item VIII.a., and this summary shall be signed by all and provided to the resident/fellow by the Program Director.

IX. Radiation Safety Officers

Hartford Hospital	Peter Mas	860-545-2676
St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center	Ellen Wilcox, PhD	860-714-5925
Hospital of Central Connecticut	Stuart Korchin	860-224-5900 ext. 2533
Connecticut Children's Medical Center	Michael Tortora	860-545-9902
UConn John Dempsey Hospital	Kenneth Price	860-679-2250

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