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Lee A. Norman, M.D., Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

February 23, 2021

## **KANSAS INFORMATION NOTICE: 2021 –01 – Gonadal Shielding Waiver**

### **ADDRESSEES**

All Kansas X-ray registrants who have Medical X-ray Equipment (or those planning to purchase X-ray Equipment)

### **PURPOSE**

Notify Kansas X-ray registrants about a waiver of K.A.R. 28-35-242a(a)(6) pertaining to gonadal shielding.

### **DISCUSSION**

KDHE has approved a waiver of regulation K.A.R. 28-35-242a(a)(6) pertaining to the use of gonadal shielding.

### **FACILITY ACTIONS NEEDED**

Please review the attached waiver and contact us at [kdhe.xray@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.xray@ks.gov) if you have any questions or need further information.

February 15, 2021

### **WAIVER OF K.A.R. 28-35-242a(a)(6)**

In light of recent recommendations and pursuant to the Secretary's authority under K.A.R. 28-35-242(a), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is waiving the requirement of K.A.R. 28-35-242a(a)(6) for X-ray registrants who provide diagnostic imaging services which requires gonadal shielding to a patient receiving medical diagnostic X-ray exposures. However, X-ray operators and patient holders are still required to be protected by lead aprons, thyroid shield, and possible lead gloves to prevent unnecessary occupational exposure during X-ray exams while in the X-ray room during exposures.

### **DISCUSSION**

K.A.R. 28-35-242a(a)(6) states: "Gonad shielding of not less than 0.5 millimeter of lead-equivalent material shall be used during radiographic procedures in which the gonads are in the useful beam for all human patients who have not passed the reproductive age, except for cases in which this shielding would interfere with the diagnostic procedure."

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), American College of Radiology (ACR), Health Physics Society (HPS), the Image Gently campaign, and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) have issued position statements and/or recommendations to cease routine gonadal shielding during X-ray exams. More information on these statements and recommendations may be found on page 2 of this Waiver.

The KDHE Radiation Control Program is reviewing these recommendations for a future regulation revision. In the interim, KDHE is issuing a blanket waiver to the requirements of K.A.R. 28-35-242a(a)(6) and allowing the use of gonadal shielding to be at the discretion of a medical facility's X-ray Director or Radiation Safety Officer. The impact of gonadal shielding on the diagnostic quality of an image versus the potential health benefits of gonadal shielding shall be considered when deciding on the continued use of patient shielding at each individual facility.

The KDHE Radiation Control Program understands that radiation exposure to the pediatric population may generate anxiety among the general public and medical communities. Registrants are not prohibited from continuing the practice of providing a patient with gonadal shielding, if they so desire. KDHE Radiation Control Program recommends that registrants providing diagnostic X-ray imaging services establish policies for patients who are not comfortable completing the exam without the shielding during the X-ray exposure.

## FACILITY ACTIONS NEEDED

All medical X-ray registrants shall establish policies for management of patients who are not comfortable without the use of lead shielding during X-ray exposures and for discretionary use of gonadal shielding.

## REFERENCES

- American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) policy statement dated April 2, 2019, <https://www.aapm.org/org/policies/details.asp?id=468&type=PP&current=true>,
- The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) Statement No. 13, dated January 12, 2021, <https://ncrponline.org/wp-content/themes/ncrp/PDFs/Statement13.pdf>
- The AAPM created a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to help educate three different target audiences which may be a helpful reference. The first addresses the questions and concerns of all types of healthcare professionals. The second addresses common concerns among patients and is best suited for adult patient populations. The third section is intended for parents and other caregivers of pediatric patients. FAQs: [https://www.aapm.org/org/policies/documents/CARES\\_FAQs\\_Patient\\_Shielding.pdf](https://www.aapm.org/org/policies/documents/CARES_FAQs_Patient_Shielding.pdf)

## CONTACT

If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please do not hesitate to contact the Radiation Control Program at (785) 296-1560 or [kdhe.xray@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.xray@ks.gov).

This waiver is hereby effective on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021



Lee A. Norman, M.D.

Secretary

Kansas Department of Health and Environment