



Gonadal Shielding Policy Guidelines

I. Sample Policy

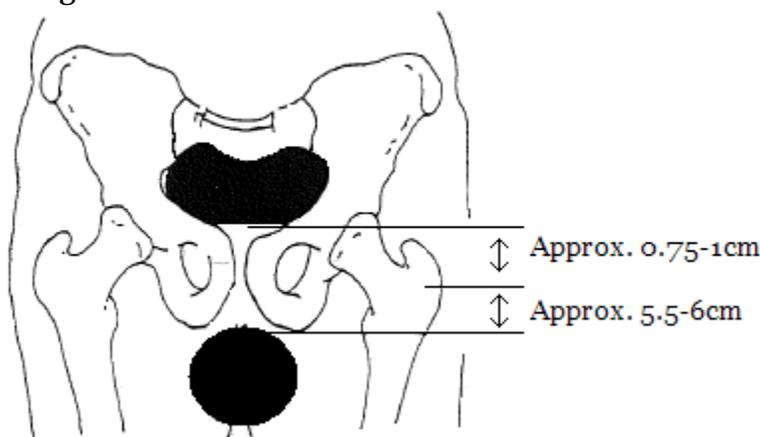
Gonad shielding of not less than 0.5 mm lead equivalent shall be used for patients who have not passed the reproductive age¹ defined as ages 45 and below, during radiographic procedures in which the gonads are in the useful beam, except for cases in which a properly placed shield would interfere with the diagnostic procedure.

The following is a list of examinations for which gonad shielding would normally be required:

Males	Females
Pelvis	Pelvis (when area of interest is hip)
Hip	Hip
Upper femur	Upper Femur
Lumber spine ²	Lumber spine
K.U.B. ²	

Note: The above list is not all-inclusive and gonad shielding could be used on other selected examinations.

- II. Collimation shall not be used as a substitute for proper gonad shielding.
- III. Should the situation arise where a properly placed gonad shield would interfere with the diagnostic procedure, the radiograph must be labeled³ so as to indicate the reason why gonad shielding was not used.
- IV. Periodic⁴ quality assurance studies shall be done to assure that the requirements regarding gonad shielding are being adhered to.



¹ Generally speaking ages 45 and below is suggested, however; this criteria could be set elsewhere although it is not recommended that the upper age limit be lower than 45 years.

² Shielding required when these examinations are centered low enough to include the gonads in the useful beam.

³ Hole punches, dot stickers, and labels stating “gonad shielding would interfere with the diagnostic procedure” are some examples of labeling. If hole punches or dot stickers are used, there meaning must be made clear in a written policy. If your facility captures digital images, annotation labels may be created in the CR/DR system. Notes may be made in the patient’s file indicating the reasons for not shielding.

⁴ Monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, etc.