

Discontinuation of Routine Lead Patient Shielding in Diagnostic Imaging

September 29, 2021

Date effective: October 4, 2021

Background Information:

Professional bodies around the world, including the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) and Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR), have released position statements advocating for the discontinuation of gonadal and fetal shielding for patients during x-ray examinations. After careful review of the available evidence, including position statements from national and international professional and scientific bodies, Shared Health has decided to adopt this change in practice for patient shielding.

Clinical Practice Change:

Effective October 4, 2021 Shared Health staff providing diagnostic imaging appointments will no longer use patient shielding as part of their routine practice. Staff will continue all other practices as normal. Shielding will remain in DI departments and must still be available for use if requested by the patient or caregiver.

References/Resources:

- <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/services/diagnostic/patient-shielding/>
- [Canadian Association of Radiologists Position Statement – Discontinuing the Use of Gonadal and Fetal Shielding for Patients](#)
- [American Association of Physicists in Medicine - Communicating Advances in Radiation Education for Shielding \(CARES\)](#)

Patient Impact:

- Improved quality of diagnostic imaging exams
- Shortening of overall exam time for patients

System Improvements:

- Increased efficiency for staff providing diagnostic imaging
- Shared Health will be following best practice principles based on current science and research in the profession

Clinical Practice Change issued by:

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