Shielding for Radiology Exams

Our policy

This handout explains our policy about shielding during radiology exams.

Will I wear a shield during my X-ray exam?

We do NOT offer shielding of the body for patients during their radiology exams. This is because:

- **Shielding of the body offers little or no health benefit.** Shells do not reduce “internal scatter.” This term refers to X-rays that scatter inside the body, beyond the main imaging field.
- **Using shielding can affect exam results.** Shielding can block the X-rays. This means we may not get the clear information that we need for diagnosis. We may need to repeat the exam.
- **Shielding in the imaging field can increase X-ray output.** This increases your radiation dose and also affects the image quality.

Please ask your technologist if you have any questions.

Who endorses this policy?

These groups endorse this policy:

- American Association of Physicists in Medicine
- American College of Radiology
- American Society of Radiologic Technologists
- Image Gently and Image Wisely

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