

UW Medicine



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.** Shields 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.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

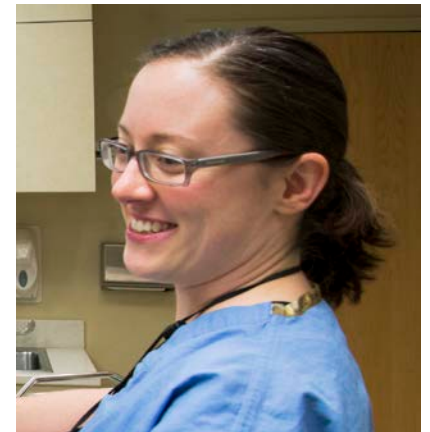
- UW Medical Center Imaging Services:
 - Montlake campus: 206.598.6200
 - Northwest campus: 206.368.1744
- Harborview Imaging Services: 206.744.3561
- Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Radiology: 206.606.7200
- Seattle Children’s Radiology: 206.987.2089

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



Please ask your technologist if you have any questions about this policy.

To Learn More

- www.aapm.org/org/policies/details.asp?id=468&type=PP¤t=true
- www.aapm.org/org/policies/documents/CARES_FAQs_Patient_Shielding.pdf