Operating & Safety Procedures for Mammography

Mammography equipment shall be operated by a technologist specifically trained in mammography.

“Caution Radiation Area” signs shall be posted on all doors leading into mammography room.

Doors shall be closed during exposures.

Operators shall stand behind a protective barrier during exposures.

Visual and audible contact with the patient shall be maintained at all times.

Only individuals required for the exam shall be in the mammography suite during an exposure.

Mechanical support devices shall be used to hold a patient in position whenever possible.

If a patient must be held during an exposure, ask a family member to assist before asking another technologist.

Holders shall be provided with appropriate protective lead aprons and shall be positioned such that exposure is minimized and no unprotected body parts are exposed.

Mammography technologist will wear film badges outside of their lead aprons.

No pregnant women or persons under 18 years of age will be permitted to hold patients.

Holders will be rotated such that no one person holds patient regularly.

All lead aprons shall be inspected annually for defects.

A technique chart shall be used and posted near the console. The chart should show exposure factors appropriate for the size and density of the breast, implant, or tissue specimens.

Neither the tube housing nor the collimator shall be held during an exposure.

A copy of the Alabama Regulations for Radiation Control 420-3-26, all registrations of mammography units, Form X Notice to Employees, and the Alabama Form 100 should be posted at in all areas of radiation workers.

The film manufacturer’s and processor’s recommendations shall be followed for maintenance, developer temperature, safelight filter and bulb wattage, and replacement of the processor chemicals.

Only properly trained and authorized personnel shall be allowed to install, repair, and maintain the equipment used to conduct mammography procedures.

Chapter 420-3-26-.03 (5)(a & c) of the Rules of State Board of Health Office of Radiation Control State of Alabama states that each registrant shall develop, document, and implement a radiation protection program and at intervals not to exceed 12 months, review the radiation protection program content and implementation.

Radiation Protection Program reviewed:

___/___/2014  ___/___/2016  ___/___/2018
___/___/2015  ___/___/2017  ___/___/2019