SUGGESTED RADIATION SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR USE IN PRIVATE CHIROPRACTIC PRACTICES

1. No x-ray exposure will be permitted of any patient unless ordered in writing or verbally by a chiropractic physician. Routine or standing orders are acceptable if approved by the chiropractic physician.

2. The x-ray machine operator shall stand behind a protective barrier when any x-ray exposure is being made.

3. Mechanical positioning aids such as angled sponges will be used to hold patients in position, without the aid of another person.

4.   Patients will only be held by a person during emergencies. No one person shall be used as the designated holder in a facility.

5.   Whenever holding a patient is found to be necessary, any person holding that patient shall wear a lead apron and lead gloves of at least 0.25 millimeter lead equivalency.

6. Any person who routinely holds patients during x-ray examinations shall be provided with and required to wear a personal monitoring device.

7.   No person other than the patient shall be allowed in the x-ray suite during any x-ray exposure unless that person is necessary to perform the examination.

8. The door leading into the x-ray suite shall remain closed during any x-ray exposure.

9.   Any person performing an x-ray examination shall follow the examination procedure as established by that facility. This procedure shall include at a minimum, each patient position, film and tube orientations, and exposure factors required to complete the examination successfully.

10. All x-ray films will be processed either manually by the time temperature method or in a properly maintained automatic processor.

11. All darkrooms will be lightproof and if safelights are present, they must emit light only in the wavelengths that the films used are not sensitive to.

12. The chiropractic physician shall be informed of any pregnant patients that x-ray examinations are ordered on. At this point the chiropractic physician will decide if the x-ray examination will be performed, modified, delayed, or cancelled.