PURPOSE: To make sure that any pregnant patient is protected during x-ray procedures.

POLICY: Patients who must have an x-ray and are pregnant will be double shielded.

PROCEDURES:

1. Each female patient who needs an x-ray will be asked if there is a possibility of pregnancy by the ordering physician, nurse practitioner, or nurse.
2. The appropriate field is checked by the physician, nurse practitioner, or nurse.
3. If the patient is pregnant, the physician, nurse practitioner, or nurse will discuss risks with the patient and request DOUBLE shielding on the requisition.
4. The female patient will always be asked by the radiographer if there is a possibility of pregnancy. The patient is not x-rayed until the ordering physician, nurse practitioner, or nurse is consulted.
5. The requisition must always have pregnancy question asked and answered by physician, nurse practitioner, or nurse.