



Policy Title
Radiation Safety

Identifier
USCSOMG – STAF – 7.04

Prepared by: Office for Student Affairs	
Reviewed by: Associate Dean for Student Affairs	Review Date: 8/18/2025
Approved by: USCSOMG Policy Committee	Approval Date: 8/18/2025
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LCME Standards

12.8 – Student Exposure Policies and Procedures

Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville students and visiting students

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the USC School of Medicine Greenville to ensure the safety of students, patients, faculty and other parties with respect to exposure to radiation. As such, we observe the rules and regulations promulgated by federal and state agencies overseeing radioactive sources and follow policies concerning radiation safety and exposure prevention set forth by Prisma Health.

An Instadose Plus Radiation Monitor is available upon request through the Office for Medical Education. Students must complete Radiation Safety Training prior to requesting a radiation monitor.

Reason for Policy

To provide USC School of Medicine students clarity on radiation safety policies during clinical assignments. LCME requires that a medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical students' exposure to infectious and environmental hazards.

Definitions

1. Instadose Plus Radiation Monitor - worn by an individual to determine the amount of occupational radiation exposure they have received. These monitors transmit the data wirelessly via built-in Bluetooth technology to a reading station.

Procedures

During their clinical education curriculum, medical students who experience occupational exposure to radiation are subject to radiation monitoring and other precautions set forth in this policy and in the partner health system Radiation Safety Programs.

1. Prevention and Radiation Safety
 - a. All students will be required to complete training as defined by the partner health system policy.
2. Radiation Monitoring
 - a. An Instadose Plus Radiation Monitor is available upon request through the Office for Medical Education.
 - b. Students must properly wear their radiation monitor when they are occupationally exposed to radiation. This includes when working with fluoroscopy, handling radioactive material, and/or operating x-ray producing equipment. Radiation monitors are to be worn between the chest and neck outside lead aprons/thyroid collars.
 - c. All badges must be returned to the Office for Medical Education at the completion of the clinical activity or at the end of M4 year, prior to graduation.
 - d. Students who participate in the M1 or M2 year in any activities that result in potential radiation exposure are instructed to contact the Office for Medical Education to obtain a monitoring device. Monitoring devices must be returned to the Office for Medical Education in a timely manner at the completion of the clinical activity.
3. Pregnant Students
 - a. If a student becomes pregnant at a time when they are scheduled to be involved in activities that present risk of radiation exposure, they can voluntarily declare themselves pregnant by completing a [declaration of pregnancy form](#) and submitting it to the clinical site's Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) or location administrator.
 - b. The student will be provided with Nuclear Regulatory Guide 8.13 for information regarding fetal exposure
 - c. The pregnant student is issued a monthly fetal monitor with a limit of 500 mrem during the pregnancy in addition to the Instadose Plus Radiation Monitor described in Section 2.
 - d. Fetal monitors are to be worn at the waist level under the individual's lead apron.
 - e. The fetal monitor must be worn for the duration of the pregnancy. This is a monthly badge. Each month, the student will be notified by the Office for Medical Education to pick up a new fetal monitor.
 - f. Upon submission of a pregnancy declaration, the student, the student's supervising faculty and the partner health system RSO establishes an exposure control plan to ensure the dose to the fetus due to occupational exposure of the student throughout the remainder of the pregnancy does not exceed standards set forth in partner health system policy.
4. Lost Radiation Badges
 - a. All badges must be returned to the Office for Medical Education at the conclusion of the clinical activity or at the end of M4 year, prior to graduation. For lost, damaged or misplaced badges, contact the Office for Medical Education to request a replacement. The student is responsible for the replacement cost of the badge.

Sanction

A student will not be able to receive their diploma until the radiation badge has been returned, or replacement cost paid.

Additional Contacts

Office for Student Affairs

Office for Medical Education

Partner Health System Radiation Safety Officer (864) 455-3720

Related Information

History

Date of Change	Change
August 2025	Change Office for Academic Affairs to Office for Medical Education.
June 2025	Edit for inclusive language; added Office of Academic Affairs.
July 2024	Updates to branding and titles; formal approval not required.
April 2021	Updated to reflect a change in partner health system policy; radiation badges are no longer required for all students but may be requested through the Office for Academic Affairs.
May 2020	Updated timing in which badges are issued and replacement costs in the M3/M4 years.
May 2019	Clarified monitoring procedures and sanctions. Editorial changes made due to branding updates and titles.
Sept 2018	Policy formalized into standardized template, LCME CQI