



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF DENTISTRY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Dental Radiology

Policy No.: 3.8
Supersedes:
Revision Date: 11/30/09
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POLICY:

The Department of Dentistry shall utilize the following procedures to provide diagnostic x-rays with minimal hazard to patients and staff

PROCEDURE:

1. Each dental patient must be evaluated by a dentist prior to any exposure to dental x-rays. The dentist must determine the type and number of dental x-rays required for the radiographic examination of the patient.
2. Each dental patient's medical status must be evaluated by a dentist to determine if the patient has any contraindications to dental radiograph or if the patient has an infectious disease. The dentist or auxiliary personnel assigned to take the x-rays must be informed by the evaluating dentist of any infectious disease so that the appropriate barrier techniques can be used.
3. The patient will be properly shielded and protected from unnecessary and scattered radiation during x-ray exposure.
4. The operator of the dental x-ray equipment must have appropriate documentation of training in dental radiography and the safe operation of the equipment.
5. The operator of the x-ray equipment must observe all safety and personal protection regulations.
6. The operator of the x-ray equipment must wear an x-ray film badge. The film badges are monitored by the health physicist/radiation safety officer. He/she maintains records of this monitoring and notifies the Department Chairman of excessive exposure of any operator within the Department.
7. Any malfunction of the dental x-ray equipment shall be reported immediately to the attending dentist who will arrange for repair. The equipment will immediately be put out of service until it is repaired and deemed safe for use.
8. Radiographs must be evaluated and interpreted by a dentist and the findings, impressions and recommendations documented in the patient's record.
9. The health physicist/radiation safety officer shall arrange an annual physicist's evaluation of dental x-ray equipment. The Department of Dentistry will be responsible for contracting semi-annual calibration and preventive maintenance of the dental x-ray equipment. Records of this service will be maintained in Department and copies of the documentation will be sent to the health physicist/radiation safety officer.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/2002

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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Signature(s) on File.

10. Patient shielding devices will be inspected annually and records of the inspection will be kept by the health physicist/radiation safety officer.
11. The Department of Dentistry will provide consultation and educational service to other Departments of the Medical Center.
12. Appropriate inservice training shall be provided for dental staff and auxiliaries annually.