

Patient Shielding

The hospitals within Waterloo Wellington will no longer be using lead aprons/shielding on patients having x-ray exams. Our practice is changing based on recommendations made by the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists, the Canadian Association of Radiologists, the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists and Safety Code 35.

What has changed?

- With advances in x-ray technology and the use of digital imaging, it was determined that patients receive 20-25 times less radiation today compared to 70 years ago.
- Advances in research shown that certain tissues within the body are less sensitive to the effects of diagnostic levels of radiation than previously reported.
- Improved technology allows us to obtain higher quality images using less radiation, including automatic exposure sensors which determine how much radiation to use based on the body part being imaged. Additional exposures may be needed if lead shielding covers the sensor or required anatomy.
- Research has proven that there are no harmful effects of x-rays on reproductive organs or the fetus.



Please speak to your medical radiation technologist or medical provider if you have any questions.

For more information on discontinuing lead shielding, see the CAMRT position statement.



These recommendations are endorsed by:

Canadian Association of Radiologists | Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists | Safety Code 35 | International Commission on Radiological Protection

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