Declaration of Pregnancy Form

I, _____, am hereby declaring, in writing, that I am pregnant. The estimated date of conception by my physician is _____.

I have received counseling from _____, regarding my legal rights and the potential risks to the fetus from ionizing radiation. I understand that a second personnel monitoring device will be secured for me until such time as the pregnancy is concluded or I "undeclare" the pregnancy.

I realize that unless the pregnancy interferes with my ability to perform my assignments, that any decision to be reassigned will be based on my own preferences.

_____ has discussed with me the proper procedure in securing potential reassignment. I understand that all clinical competencies must be documented for successful program completion.

I also certify that I have re-read the material initially provided to me regarding the pregnancy policy for the program.

_____   _____
Program Director   Student

_____
Date

Section VII

Policy Governing Pregnancy

Students enrolled in the program are instructed in proper safety precautions and personnel monitoring with emphasis on overall protection for the student and all persons involved in medical radiography. Students are required to abide by **ALL** safety precautions and to remember the importance of keeping exposure as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) through a combination of time, distance and shielding. Due to the number and variety of courses in the curriculum and the importance of maintaining a rotational schedule through the various assignments without interruption, students enrolled in this program are strongly encouraged **NOT** to become pregnant during the two years of education.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has revised 10CFR PART 20 in regard to the pregnant worker (student). The pregnant student must *voluntarily* declare her pregnancy, *in writing*, and include the approximate date of conception. Without this written declaration, the program, college nor any of its clinical education settings can be held responsible for the radiation safety of the fetus. Regulations in 20.1208 state that the licensee (program/college) must ensure that the dose to the embryo/fetus of a declared pregnant radiation worker must not exceed 500 mrem (5 mSv) during the entire pregnancy. An attempt must be made to avoid substantial variation above a uniform monthly exposure rate to that pregnant worker. If the dose to the embryo/fetus at the time of the declaration is found to exceed 500 mrem (5mSv) or is within 50 mrem (0.5 mSv) of the limit, the dose for the remainder of the pregnancy period must not exceed 50 mrem. Should a student fall under this category, the NRC allows the mother the right to "undeclare" her pregnancy, at which time the institution is absolved of all responsibilities for radiation protection of the embryo/fetus. (This right of "undeclaration" is not found in any section of the CFR; however, it is found in the NRC's set #5 of Questions and Answers regarding Part 20, available in the office of the program director.) The program *encourages* a student who becomes pregnant to declare her pregnancy as early as possible.

If a student believes she is pregnant, she may voluntarily declare her pregnancy by requesting a Declaration of Pregnancy Form from the program director. Upon declaration, a second personnel monitoring device will be provided for her until such time as the pregnancy is concluded or the student "undeclares" her pregnancy.

It is important to note that a student who does not declare her pregnancy to the program director may have to disclose this information to the college nurse. Certain vaccinations that are needed before a student may enter clinic may not be given to pregnant females and counseling with the college nurse may be needed.

Each student is required to review this policy prior to formal interview for the program and a copy is included in the student policy manual, issued upon enrollment in the program.

Student signature_____ Date_____

Radiation Exposure Records

1. All personnel must wear film badges at all times.
2. Film Badges will be read monthly and the results evaluated by supervisor or radiation safety officer.
3. If high reading is reported, that personnel's work habits will be investigated and corrective measures taken.
4. Exposure reports will be kept in a permanent file.

Radiation During Pregnancy - Patients

1. Signs are posted for patient's reference to inform the technologist of the possibility of pregnancy.
2. The procedure to minimize medical x-ray exposure to the human embryo and fetus is also followed on all female patients of the child bearing age.
3. Space is provided on the request for verification of this procedure.

Radiation During Pregnancy - Employees

1. It is the employee's responsibility to notify the supervisor immediately and furnish a statement from her physician indicating he is aware of the type of work, due date and permission for employee to continue work or any restrictions imposed.
2. Supervisor will review the radiation history and radiation rules and manner of work and will discuss the need for keeping the radiation exposure to the fetus as low as possible.
3. The technologist is responsible for wearing of protective clothing and for good work habits.
4. NRC and State Guidelines will be followed regarding dose limits to fetus and occupational worker.

Gonad Shielding

When the patient is having a radiograph of the hip or of the pelvis for the first time as it relates to a current episode or illness, no gonadal shielding will be applied. On any follow-up examinations gonadal shielding will be used whenever it is felt that the shielding will not obscure the area of interest.

For abdominal examinations, the shadow shield gonad shield and/or collimator shall be used to protect gonads. For pregnant females the lead apron shall be worn about the waist. If the examination is of the abdominal area and at all possible without interfering with the diagnostic quality of the examination, the fetus will be shielded from the primary beam with the lead apron.