



## Radiation Safety Checklist for Dental Facilities

Use the following questions to identify strengths and weaknesses in your Radiation Safety Program.

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| • Dental staff has received training and understands the risks of working around diagnostic dental radiography                                                                        | Yes No Don't know |
| • Staff understands their rights with respect to radiation exposure in the workplace                                                                                                  | Yes No Don't know |
| • Staff knows their annual dose limit and receives regular updates to their exposure record                                                                                           | Yes No Don't know |
| • A thorough shielding evaluation of my facility was done on (date) _____. Since then, there has been no changes in patient workload, technique factors, or facility layout (remodel) | Yes No Don't know |
| • Staff in my facility do not need radiation dosimetry                                                                                                                                | Yes No Don't know |
| • My facility meets regulatory requirements for:                                                                                                                                      |                   |
| ○ Machine inspections and registrations                                                                                                                                               | Yes No Don't know |
| ○ Facility Inspections and registration                                                                                                                                               | Yes No Don't know |
| ○ Proper signs posted                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes No Don't know |
| • Facility Radiation Safety Program is available to all employees and is reviewed and updated on a regular basis                                                                      | Yes No Don't know |
| • Staff is able to answer patient's questions regarding radiation exposure                                                                                                            | Yes No Don't know |
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Training is one of the most overlooked aspects of a Radiation Safety Program. Training is not only important to ensure that your staff is comfortable working around radiation, it is also important so patients' questions can be adequately answered. Often, when these questions are asked, the answers are confusing and incomplete—mostly because those answering the questions do not have a clear understanding themselves. Can you thoroughly answer the following?

- "I recently had a dental exam where several x-rays were taken. I just found out that I am pregnant. Was there any harm to my baby?"
- "I just had a dental x-ray. The technician did not place the lead apron on my body. What effect will this have on my body?"

Radiation shielding is also rarely considered. When your facility was designed, a shielding evaluation was provided in order to ensure the exposure from x-rays would not overexpose your staff or others visiting your facility. These calculations are performed using assumed values for patient workload and technique factors. As your practice has grown and expanded, these assumptions may no longer be valid—you could be exposing your staff and those in the waiting room to levels of radiation higher than is allowed by regulations. If your facility has undergone any significant growth or remodel, you should have the shielding reevaluated to ensure you meet public dose exposure limits.

Radiation Safety Consulting Services, LLC would like the opportunity to work with you to ensure your facility is safe. *If you answered "no" or "don't know" to any of the questions above, you need our assistance.* Please contact us to discuss your radiation safety needs: (801) 721-5910.