



## **Mammography Pregnant Patients Guidelines**

All patients of childbearing age (under the age of 50) should be questioned as to the possibility of being pregnant and questioned as to the date of their last menstrual period.

When a patient answers “yes” to a pregnancy question when scheduling, schedulers should document “Patient is pregnant” to provide the technologists awareness to potentially educate patients regarding updated guidelines against shielding. Providing this clinically relevant information also aids our radiologists in image interpretation.

Radiology of Indiana is following current recommendations from The American College of Radiology (ACR), the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) against reproductive and fetal shielding, as the radiation exposure to a fetus is minimal and poses no significant health risks to either the fetus or the mother. Furthermore, evidence has shown that shielding can actually be counterproductive, resulting in a higher dose of radiation to the mother and fetus.

Although shielding is not recommended, if a patient “mandates” that they are shielded, despite education that shielding is not required, please document that shielding was provided, per patient’s request, in EMR.

### **Resources:**

1. American College of Radiology: Patient Gonadal and Fetal Shielding Education Module and NRCP's Recommendation Against Routine Gonadal Shielding
2. The American Association of Physicists in Medicine
3. American Board of Radiology