

2020



# ASMIRT

## Position Statement

### **Gonad Shielding**

*Your profession. Your future.*



There are a number of protected titles for medical radiation practice. They include:

Medical Radiation Practitioner (MRP)

Diagnostic Radiographer (DR)

Medical Imaging Technologist (MIT)

Radiographer

Nuclear Medicine Scientist (NMS)

Nuclear Medicine Technologist (NMT)

Radiation Therapist (RT).

For the purposes of our documentation we use the broad descriptor Medical Radiation Practitioner (MRP) recognising that it covers a range of areas of practice.



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## GONAD SHIELDING FOR MEDICAL IMAGING

The Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy is the peak body representing medical radiation practitioners in Australia. Our aims are to promote, encourage, cultivate and maintain the highest principles of practice and proficiency of medical radiation science.

*ASMIRT supports the discontinuation of the use of gonad shielding in Medical Imaging.*

ASMIRT's Position Statement is in line with both national and international stakeholders who have formulated position statements on gonad shielding.

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) states that patient gonad and fetal shielding during x-ray based diagnostic imaging should be discontinued as routine practice. Patient shielding may jeopardise the benefits of undergoing radiological imaging.

The full statement can be found within:

“AAPM Position Statement on the Use of Patient Gonadal and Fetal Shielding” (Policy No:- PP 32-A Policy Date:- 04/02/2019)<sup>1</sup>

This position statement has also been endorsed by the American College of Radiology (ACR), the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), the Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR) and the Canadian Organisation of Medical Physicists (COMP).

The UK based Society of Radiographers also states that gonad shielding is of “minimal or no benefit”. Their position statement can be found under “Guidance on Using Shielding on Patients for Diagnostic Radiology Application”.<sup>2</sup>

Nationally, the Australian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM), directly endorses the “AAPM Position Statement on the Use of Patient Gonad and Fetal Shielding”.

ASMIRT recommends this position statement be read in conjunction with the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) Codes and Standards which can be found under “Fundamentals for Protection Against Ionising Radiation / Radiation Protection Series F-1”.<sup>3</sup>

### References:

1. American Association of Physicists in Medicine. AAPM Position Statement on the Use of Patient Gonadal and Fetal Shielding. 4 February 2019. Available at: <https://www.aapm.org/org/policies/details.asp?id=468&type=PP>
2. Society of Radiographers. Guidance on Using Shielding on Patients for Diagnostic Radiology Application. British Institute of Radiology. 5 March 2020. Available at: <https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/guidance-using-shielding-patients-diagnostic-radiology-applications>
3. Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) Codes and Standards. Fundamentals for Protection Against Ionising Radiation / Radiation Protection Series F-1. 2014. Available at: <https://www.arpansa.gov.au/regulation-and-licensing/regulatory-publications/radiation-protection-series/fundamentals/rpsf-1>

