

PATIENT SHIELDING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is my child not shielded now?

- Our modern imaging equipment uses much less radiation than in the past.
- Shields can cover up parts of your child's body that are important for your doctor to see.
- Shields can interfere with how our modern equipment works.

My child previously had an imaging exam where shielding was used, why the change in practice?

- The medical community has recently reviewed the use of patient shielding and determined that it is not as effective as once thought.

Doesn't shielding make my child safer?

- No. The amount of radiation used in most imaging exams is so small that the risk to your child is either very small or zero.

But what's the harm in using a shield?

- Shields can interfere with how our modern equipment works.
- Shields can cover up parts of your child's body that are important for your doctor to see.

Why is my child not shielded if I am required to wear a lead apron while I am in the room with them?

- Because you aren't being imaged, there is no need for you to get any radiation and so we give you an apron to wear to make sure that you don't get any dose.
- Your child's doctor wants an image so they can better see what is going on inside their body. This exposes your child to a little bit of radiation, but your doctor has thought about the benefits and risks to your child. He or she has decided that the benefit from having the information from the image is much higher than the risk from the radiation, which is very small or zero.

Shouldn't my child's gonads be shielded to minimize the risk of genetic damage to future generations?

- No. Scientists found that the gonads are much less sensitive to radiation than previously thought.
- No. There is no evidence that radiation from medical imaging damages reproductive cells such as eggs or those that produce sperm.

Shouldn't my child's gonads be shielded so that we don't increase the risk of infertility?

- No. The dose required to cause infertility is much higher than that used during a medical imaging exam.

Can I ask for a shield for my child?

- We do not recommend using lead shielding during imaging exams.
- But, if you insist that we use a shield, we will honor your request if it is possible to do so without compromising the exam your child is having.