

Advanced Heart and Vascular Center			
Policies and Procedures			
Policy Code: RAD.011		Reducing Radiological Exposure in the Cath Lab	
Approved By: Sandra Germany, Administrator	Effective Date: 06/18	Review Date: 5/26	Revision Date:

POLICY

It is the policy of Advanced Heart and Vascular Center (“AHVC”) to keep radiation exposure to patients and staff as low as possible.

PROCEDURE

- Guidelines for Cath Lab Setting:
 - When x-rays are required in the cath lab, the licensed technologist is required to be present during the procedure and to operate and maintain the imaging equipment.
 - All non-scrubbed personnel who are able to leave the room during x-ray exams should do so.
 - Lead shielding is to be provided for staff that cannot leave the operating room.
 - Staff should position themselves as far from Xray tube as possible.
 - Personnel wearing lead aprons should face the x-ray unit, unless the apron wraps around the body.
 - All reasonable attempts of reconciling an incorrect count should be made prior to utilizing x-ray to locate an unaccounted needle, instrument or sponge.
- Protective Devices (Also refer to Lead Apron policy):
 - Radiation monitoring devices are to be worn by all surgical services personnel who have frequent exposure to radiation.
 - Devices are to be worn outside the lead apron at the neckline.
 - Devices are to be turned in for processing monthly.

- Lead or lead-equivalent protective devices are examined annually to detect damage that will reduce the effectiveness of the protection.
 - Lead or lead-equivalent garments are not to be folded; they are susceptible to cracking.
 - Aprons and gloves should be hung on racks for storage.