

Minnesota Department of Health

Radiation Control, X-ray Unit

Personal Protective Garment - Lead Apron Use

Per [Minnesota Rule 4732.0410](#), lead aprons must be used when the primary beam is within 2" (5 cm) of the gonads, for patients who have procreative potential, and when it would not interfere with the diagnostic procedure. Minnesota Rule 4732 does not require the use of thyroid or eye protection for the patient. The registrant may establish more stringent requirements for lead apron use, for patient piece of mind or as suggested by your facility's designated Radiation Safety Officer (RSO). It is important to remember that pregnant staff should not hold.

Occupational staff may be required to wear thyroid or eye protection if the doses outlined in [Minnesota Rule 4732.0410](#) are present. This includes:

- Individuals in the room for radiographic, CT or exams using fluoroscopy
- Individuals within 6' of the tube or patient during portable radiography, dental exams, and bone densitometry
- Thyroid and eye protection must be worn by occupational staff if the potential exposure were to exceed the limits of 4732.0410, such as in Cardiac Labs and Interventional Radiography

Only necessary individuals may be in the room during the exam and individuals may not routinely be used to hold the imaging receptor or patient.

| Equipment Type | Patient Apron Required? | 0.5 mm Lead Apron Required for Others in the Room? |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Dental | No | If within 6' of patient or tube |
| Bone Densitometry | If Primary Beam within 2" of the gonads | If within 6' of patient or tube |
| Portable Radiography | If Primary Beam within 2" of the gonads | If within 6' of patient or tube |
| General Use Radiographic | If Primary Beam within 2" of the gonads | All personnel in room must wear an apron |
| Fluoroscopic | If Primary Beam within 2" of the gonads | All personnel in room must wear an apron |
| Computed Tomography | If Primary Beam within 2" of the gonads | All personnel in room must wear an apron |



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