



Conceptus Protection Program

Following written or e-mail notice of pregnancy or intended pregnancy to the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO), the RSP institutes a Conceptus Protection Program (CPP). The CPP consists of three elements.

Reference: [RSP-10. Pregnancy Declaration Form](#)

1. Confidential Conferences

Conferences include the employee and RSP specialists and may also include supervisors. The employee is provided a copy of this Program and other pertinent literature on protecting pregnant employees from radiological exposures. During the conference and based on the specific circumstances, the RSP makes recommendations to the employee and supervisor relating findings and recommendations of work involving radioactive sources. In some cases, adjustments should be made in work responsibilities, if practicable, to avoid higher risk operations.

The RSP recommends that the employee seek medical advice from a qualified obstetric specialist.

EHS understands that employees may choose to maintain their pregnancy status as personally confidential for a time. Any employee may still receive safety information about pregnancy and radiological exposures at any time from the RSP without declaring her pregnancy status.

2. RSP Review of Laboratory Safety and the Workplace

The RSP will conduct a review of the laboratory or workplace to ensure that it provides appropriate guidance to protect workers and prevent or minimize radiation exposures. The RSP inspects the workplace to ensure that adequate engineering controls, such as laboratory hoods and shielding, are provided, and that safe handling procedures and the use of personal protective equipment are in place. Employees have the responsibility of adhering to University safety procedures described in the Radiation Safety Manual.

3. Radiation Monitoring

The RSP will monitor employee exposure levels for radiation by utilizing dosimetry and, when necessary, internal bioassays. The employee and principal investigator, or supervisor, shall receive a copy of the monitoring report. The goal is to keep all exposures as low as reasonably achievable.

The RSP performs the personnel radiation monitoring and assigns the radiation worker a monthly radiation badge and/or places her on a monthly bioassay program.

Radiation Exposure Action Levels

Current investigational radiation dose limits for declared pregnant or planned pregnancy employees will direct the RSO in evaluating reported doses. The NRC has established a radiation dose limit of 500 millirems for the conceptus during the entire gestation period.

Action Level I:

Employees with exposures greater than 30 millirems in a month. The RSO or designee shall send a written description of the dose report statistics, including the dose history for the previous two monitoring periods, to the person involved with a copy to the Faculty Authorized User. The RSP asks the individual and their supervisor to review her radiation safety procedures and work habits in an effort to maintain all doses as low as reasonably achievable. Health physics reviews and consultation are available.

Action Level II:

Greater than 40 millirems in a month. The RSO shall conduct a direct investigation of the situation, including an interview with the person involved. The RSO prepares a written investigation report, including trends over the past one year (as available) for that person. The RSO provides a copy of the report to the employee for review and signature. Conclusions drawn from the investigation provide a basis for confirming or modifying the dose and for establishing corrective actions to undertake.



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When the occupational radiation dose of a declared radiation employee exceeds 50 millirems in a month since declaration, the employee may require special accommodations.

The supervisor should respond to requests in accordance with Human Resources personnel policies.

The RSP and the NRC accept doses reported from personnel monitoring badges generally as an uncorrected guide to any conceptus dose. If personnel monitoring results indicate the possibility of a conceptus dose in excess of the 500-millirem limit, a special investigation will result. The investigation will take into full consideration the type and energy of radiation involved, protective shielding that might have mitigated conceptus dose, and shielding afforded by the mother's body. The employee and RSP will discuss the investigation results, and a written report provided.

Reference: [RSP-10, Pregnancy Declaration Form](#)