



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**DIRECTORATE: RADIATION CONTROL**



**GUIDELINES**

**HOLDING OF PATIENTS DURING X-RAY PROCEDURES**

- 1. Radiographers should not hold patients during x-ray procedures.**
2. Patients should be held only after it is determined that available restraining devices are inadequate.
3. In cases when a patient must be held, a person accompanying the patient or a parent, especially when children are involved should do it. If this is not possible staff members of other departments, e.g. nursing personnel, should do it.
4. Permanently allocated nursing personnel involved with radiation procedures in the Radiography Department must be registered as a radiation worker and issued with a personal monitoring device (TLD).
5. No individual should have the responsibility of **routinely** holding patients during x-ray procedures.
6. Individuals holding/supporting patients shall wear a protective apron and ensure that no part of their body is exposed to the primary x-ray beam.
7. If the hands are likely to be close to the primary beam, protective gloves should be worn. When neonates are held, the exposure will normally be so small that it will not be necessary to wear protective gloves.
8. To assist in minimizing exposure it is important for the radiographer to collimate carefully to the area of clinical interest.
9. Pregnant women or persons under the age of 18 years should not be permitted to hold patients.

----- ooOOoo -----

References: ICRP Publication 57  
NCRP Report No 105

Revision Sept 2012

