

## Shed the Shield Information For Imaging Patients

### Why discontinue patient shielding during imaging exams?

In order to provide the highest quality diagnostic exams with the lowest health risk, IBJI will no longer use lead shields to cover reproductive or fetal organs during CT scans or C-Arm fluoroscopy procedures.

This change in practice is based on many years of research which now demonstrates that the actual dose of radiation emitted by modern equipment during imaging examination is so low that a risk of harm is very small or zero.

These studies also demonstrate that use of lead shielding:

- adds no benefit for patient safety
- carries a risk of increased radiation dosage by interfering with proper functioning of modern equipment automatic exposure control
- could cover areas of the body during imaging that the doctor needs to see to provide the most accurate and comprehensive view of the body area viewed during the examination.

For patient safety, experts on radiation agree that patient shields **should NOT** be used during imaging studies obtained with equipment using Automatic Exposure Control (AEC).

### **'Shed the Shield' (Discontinuation of patient shielding) is supported by:**

- FDA, April 2019 - FDA-recommended ending use of gonadal and fetal shielding on patients during medical diagnostic procedures
- American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), April 2019, recommended not using patient shields
- Over 50 years of research have shown that radiation levels used in modern exams have no hereditary effects (i.e., mutations in the reproductive system)
- Use of patient shields may hide anatomy that the doctor needs to see which may lead to repeat imaging exams
- Modern machines are designed to automatically increase radiation if it detects shields blocking X-ray penetration, this results in the system increasing radiation.

**IBJI only uses the latest low dose technology for your protection and safety, however if you prefer to be shielded during your imaging study, please notify the technologist. If you have any questions, please ask an imaging team member.**