

NO MORE SHIELDS!

Discontinuation of **patient** shielding for X-Ray based imaging exams

If you or your child receives X-ray or CT Imaging, lead shielding will **no longer** be placed in order to provide the highest quality diagnostic exams at the lowest health risk.



Historically, patient shielding has been one way to help reduce radiation exposure to sensitive areas on the body such as the reproductive organs, thyroid gland and breast tissue and has been used for decades. However, scientific evidence has recently brought to light that shields offer little, if any benefit and carries a risk of higher exposures.

Shields are frequently misplaced or inadvertently moved during many routine X-ray exams. They hide anatomy the radiologist needs to see to make a diagnosis. This means the study is non-diagnostic (wasted dose) or it needs to be repeated (double dose!) With the sophisticated equipment used today, dose reduction is realized through automatic dose reduction controls. Moreover, shielding doesn't protect against the greatest radiation effect: "scatter," which occurs when radiation ricochets inside the body, including under the shield, and eventually deposits its energy in tissues. Therefore, national radiation safety organizations have recommended discontinuation of shielding.

- American College of Radiology
- Health Physics Society
- Image Gently campaign
- Food and Drug Administration
- American Association of Physicists in Medicine

Can You Still Place an X-ray Shield?

Yes. If you prefer that we shield during an X-ray exam, we will do so as long as it doesn't impact our ability to take images of the body part(s) the doctor needs to see. If the shield affects the image, this could result in the need for a second image and result in higher levels of radiation exposure to the body.



For more information and FAQ's,
scan the QR code or visit
silvercross.org/noshields



The way you *should* be treated.™