



PROTOCOL – DENTAL XRAY

Only people previously trained in the use of dental x-ray equipment shall be operators during the event. This does not apply to those assisting the operators.

Protective aprons shall be used on all patients with thyroid collars if appropriate.

1. At all times the operator and observers shall be a minimum of six feet from the x-ray source during exposure. This especially applies to Pans where the source moves during exposure. This is also very important to note with the portable units (Nomads) as it is very easy to have the operator, observers or other patients less than six feet away. This is VERY IMPORTANT!
2. The use of appropriate sensor holders and positioners should ensure that the operator does not hold the sensor during exposure.
3. Panoramic or intraoral images will be taken based on the recommendations of dental triage modified by the procedure(s) the patient is scheduled to have done.
 - a) Multiple extractions in more than one quadrant shall require a Pan.
 - b) Single extractions or extractions in only one quadrant can be imaged with PAs of that area.
 - c) Teeth obviously having large decay present require a PA to determine restorability.
 - d) Teeth that encountered a pulpal exposure or excessive decay during a restorative procedure require a PA for extraction or to determine if endo is indicated.
4. Proper infection control procedures as recommended by the CDC and the ODA shall be adhered to for all patients.
5. All x-rays are to be recorded on the patient record in **BLUE pen**. Staple the x-ray to the back of the patient record form with the x-ray facing out.
6. If you have an emergency, there are EMT services on site. Stay with the patient - send someone else to alert the department head who will immediately radio for an EMT. Hold up the EMT station card so the EMT can quickly identify where to go once they have been radioed.

XRAY DEPARTMENT TRIAGE/FLOW

1. Only use blue pens when writing on patient charts or x-rays.
2. When the patient arrives in x-ray, one DMD will review notes from Triage and will determine whether PAs on specific tooth numbers and/or Panorex x-rays will be done. These will be noted on patient chart. Specific tooth numbers and type and number of x-rays will be noted.
3. Patient will then be directed to the appropriate line (Handheld x-ray or Panorex X-ray line) for x-rays to be taken.
4. Once x-rays are taken patients are given a copy of the x-ray as copies are made at each x-ray station. A DMD **at Routing** will discuss priority treatment and area to be escorted to. (cleanings, restorative, oral surgery etc.).