



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

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CRCPD Participation in Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging Kick-Off of Image Gently Campaign

Dear CRCPD Members:

We ask that you start the New Year by noting this important message!

Children are more sensitive to radiation than adults and cumulative exposure to their growing, smaller bodies could, over time, have adverse effects. To help ensure that imaging providers account for these factors, the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors has joined the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging in launching the "Image Gently" campaign. You can learn more about the campaign by going to the Alliance's website at www.imagegently.org.

Alliance member organizations urge that when performing imaging exams on children, radiologists should:

- Significantly reduce, or "child-size," the amount of radiation used
- Not over-scan:
 - Scan only when necessary
 - Scan only the indicated region
 - Scan once; multi phase scanning (pre-and post-contrast, delayed exams) is rarely helpful
- Be a team player:
 - Involve medical physicists to monitor pediatric CT techniques
 - Involve technologists to optimize scanning

The Image Gently Web site (www.imagegently.org) contains the latest research and educational materials to help imaging providers determine the appropriate radiation techniques to use in the imaging of children and helpful protocols for you to follow at your facility.

[Click here](#) to visit the Image Gently Web site. Over the next few weeks, the Board of Directors members of the Healing Arts Council will be discussing ways that CRCPD can help "spread the word" for "child-sizing" the radiation dose used in children's imaging. Your participation and ideas are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Debbie B. Gilley
Chairperson

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Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging Offers Free Parent Education Materials

In 2008, the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors joined the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging, a coalition of 34 healthcare organizations serving over 400,000 healthcare providers world-wide. The Alliance goal is simple: to raise awareness of opportunities to lower radiation dose used in pediatric imaging exams through its informational “Image Gently” campaign (www.imagegently.org.)

We are now happy to announce that the Alliance has developed new materials to educate parents about medical imaging and to help them track their child’s past imaging exams:

“My Child’s Medical Imaging Record” allows parents to record where and when a study was performed as well as the type of radiologic exam. Parents are encouraged to use this record as they do the widely-used vaccination record and to encourage their future medical providers to make decisions regarding optimal timing of additional radiologic examinations with a better understanding of their child’s imaging history.

“What Parents Should Know About CT Scans for Children: Medical Radiation Safety” and **“What Parents Should Know About Medical Radiation Safety”** are downloadable patient education brochures that provide lay definitions for various imaging exams which utilize radiation and educate parents of the benefits and potential risks associated with these studies. The brochures provide dose estimates in comparison to natural background radiation, discuss possible alternative examinations that do not utilize radiation, and equip parents with questions to ask their imaging providers so that they can make better informed decisions regarding their child’s care.

The imaging record card and the patient brochures are available at <http://www.pedrad.org/associations/5364/ig/>. A special section of the Image Gently web

site will also be dedicated to providing parents with the most up-to-date information regarding children's imaging and tools to help them become better informed healthcare consumers and advocates for their children.

We invite you to download the materials from the Image Gently web site, <http://www.pedrad.org/associations/5364/ig/>, and make them available to parents in their waiting rooms and offices. We also urge you to make referring physicians aware of these resources and direct them to the Image Gently web site as appropriate.

[Click here](#) to visit the Image Gently Web site today and pledge to do your part to "child-size" the radiation dose used in children's imaging. Your active participation is appreciated.