

Subject: Radiation Exposure

March 31, 2015

John Cogan, MD, FACC (cogan@lava.net)

Dear Colleagues,

I am the Director of Interventions at Hawaii's major tertiary care hospital. My questions to you have to do with radiation exposure. We have a film badge policy that is ignored by all but a few staff. I am a proponent of badges but need to know what the standard is. Could you please take a few minutes to answer the survey monkey questions. Your help is much appreciated. The link to the survey is as follows: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HM8D3SN>

John Cogan, MD, FACC

Governor of Hawaii Chapter of the ACC

March 31, 2015

Anuj Gupta, MD, FACC (anujslink@gmail.com)

It is my understanding that not wearing your badges can result in substantial fines. Approximately 10 years ago, a local hospital that is internationally known paid \$10,000 per violation for physicians not wearing badges that resulted in multiple hundreds of thousands of dollars of fines.

Anuj

March 31, 2015

John Erwin, MD, FACC (jperwin@sw.org)

I completed the survey, John. I'd be happy to also talk off-line about both our facility policies and some other recent related issues that have arisen in TX that the TCACC has had to address. I'm sure that Matt Phillips would be happy to do the same.

-john

March 31, 2015

Christopher Cooper, MD, FACC (Christopher.cooper@utoledo.edu)

Totally agree with Anuj's comments. Radiation safety is a non-negotiable issue.
chris

March 31, 2015

Jay Alexander, MD, FACC (drjay100@aol.com)

Absolutely non-negotiable!!

March 31, 2015

George Linsenmeyer, MD, FACC (georgelinsenmeyer@uhswv.com)

Could it be made part of the time out?

March 31, 2015

Nicholas Stamato, MD, FACC (Nicholas.stamato@ccmh.net)

I have to agree.

This is not an option.

All staff should be given a report quarterly or monthly.

All staff including MDs must wear their badge.

In NY we were required to wear an external badge and an inside the lead badge. NY Dept of Health reviewed records during site visits.

Those with high (don't recall that definition) were counseled by rad safety officer (usually an MD radiologist).

I find this difficult to comprehend, unless you dealing with near retirement docs who have become fatalistic.

Good Luck

Survey also completed.

If you are given the " no randomized trial argument" I would ask for volunteer for parachute efficacy RCT.

Nick

March 31, 2015

Mladen Vidovich, MD, FACC (miv@uic.edu)

Very interesting topic!

We just published a paper where we surveyed 1000+ interventionalists worldwide on radiation practices and perceptions regarding vascular access (attached).

One of the findings was that US operators were overall bit less concerned about radiation to themselves/patients and tended to use less radiation protection compared to non-US operators.

It is hypothesized that this is due to different education/QA/training practices.

Mladen

March 31, 2015

Robert Shor, MD, FACC (rshor@tcg.md)

We made it an expectation for the doc AND assigned one of the nurses to make sure the docs wore the badges.

B

March 31, 2015

William Bommer, MD, FACC (William.bommer@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu)

We require radiation badges, Our cath lab techs can refuse to turn on the equipment if it is not an emergency.

March 31, 2015

Jerry Watson, MD, FACC (jwatson21@sc.rr.com)

It is part of our time out. All participates must have their badges before they can begin the case.

April 1, 2015

Edward Toggart, MD, FACC (etogg1@mac.com)

As director do you have the power to withhold privileges for the no compliant docs? That would get people's intention, as long as you are committed to enforcing the new rule.

Ed T

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B