



## Image Gently® / Image Wisely®

The Joint Commission's [Revised Requirements for Diagnostic Imaging Services](#) that go into effect July 1, 2014, specify that the organization "verifies and documents that radiologic technologists who perform CT examinations participate in ongoing education that includes annual training on radiation dose reduction techniques, Image Gently®, and Image Wisely®."

### **What is Jameson's commitment to Image Gently® / Image Wisely?**

Recognizing that every member of the imaging team plays a vital role in caring for the patient and wants to provide the best care,

#### **Our Goals:**

- To make the Image Gently® / Image Wisely® message a priority in staff communications.
- To review the protocol recommendations and, where necessary, implement adjustments to our procedures.
- To respect and listen to suggestions from every member of the imaging team on ways to ensure changes are made
- To communicate openly with patients, parents, family members and referring Physicians.

#### **Our Commitment:**

On March 13, 2013, the Radiation Safety Committee reviewed, and recommended Jameson Health System's participation and intention to pledge to both Image Gently® and Image Wisely® at the organizational level. The following information is provided to encourage ALL imaging professionals to do the same at the personal level thereby reinforcing Jameson's commitment to providing quality care at the highest level of concern for individual safety

By virtue of an organizational partnership with the ACR (American College of Radiology) Jameson Health System maintains a Level II ImageWisely® status with the Level III goal of partnering and participating in a regional alliance by comparing pediatric dose data against National Dose incidences.

## 1. Image Gently ® Overview (for pediatric imaging)



### The Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging

The Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging began as a committee within the Society for Pediatric Radiology in late 2006.

In 2007, the SPR leadership reached out to friends and colleagues in sister societies representing the key members of the imaging team, ACR, ASRT and AAPM, to form "the Writers Group." These organizations developed the concept of the Alliance and their representatives developed the Image Gently campaign in the summer of 2007.

The Alliance goal is to change practice: to raise awareness of the opportunities to lower radiation dose in the imaging of children. The Alliance strategy is straightforward - providing information and free educational materials to every member of the care team.

#### **Image gently and CT scans**

One size does not fit all...

There's no question: CT helps us save kids' lives.

But, when we image, radiation matters!

- Children are more sensitive to radiation.
- What we do now lasts their lifetimes.
- So, when we image, let's image gently: More is often not better.

When CT is the right thing to do:

- Child size the kVp and mA
- One scan (single phase) is often enough
- Scan only the indicated area

To learn more and take the pledge, please visit:

<http://www.imagegently.org/Home.aspx>

## 2. Image Wisely® Overview (for Adult Imaging)



The American College of Radiology and the Radiological Society of North America formed the Joint Task Force on Adult Radiation Protection to address concerns about the surge of public exposure to ionizing radiation from medical imaging. The Joint Task Force collaborated with the American Association of Physicists in Medicine and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists to create the Image Wisely campaign with the objective of lowering the amount of radiation used in medically necessary imaging studies and eliminating unnecessary procedures.

Pledge for associations:

*Image Wisely is committed to raising awareness throughout the medical community of opportunities for eliminating unnecessary imaging exams and to lowering the amount of radiation used in necessary imaging exams to only that needed to capture optimal medical images.*

**LEVEL 1** – Take the Image Wisely pledge

**LEVEL 2** – Earn accreditation from an organization that directly evaluates the following radiation-related attributes:

- Radiation dose indices and compliance with accreditation pass/fail thresholds
- Clinical image quality (peer-reviewed by an external, qualified interpreting physician)
- Phantom image quality (peer-reviewed by an external, qualified medical physicist)
- Personnel (qualifications set by the accrediting organization)

**LEVEL 3** – Participate in a dose index registry (*local or national*) that includes routine evaluation of procedures and dose indices

## Considerations:

1. All imaging physicians interpreting exams utilizing ionizing radiation and technologists performing these exams must have an understanding of the radiation exposure involved so as to be able to properly advise patients on the benefits and potential risks of the exams.
2. Radiation doses should be optimized to the lowest levels required to produce images containing all necessary information for accurate interpretation (dose optimization).
3. The practice should comply with currently available recommendations for default imaging techniques and protocols (AAPM, NCRP, ACR, etc.).
4. Whenever possible, automatic exposure control and other dose reduction methodologies (e.g., vendor supplied programs, shielding, etc.) should be employed to minimize patient exposure.
5. The practice should manually or electronically monitor dose indices for common examinations, compare these indices with established benchmarks, and evaluate outliers on a timely basis to prevent unnecessary exposure to patients or images with insufficient diagnostic information.
6. The practice should review the number of examinations performed on patients with repetitive exams and notify the ordering physician when the total number of exams appears excessive relative to the expected clinical benefit.<sup>1</sup>
7. The radiology practice should be consultative in nature and provide ongoing education to referring practitioners on the benefits and potential risks of imaging with ionizing radiation.

## **Dose Notifications and Alerts for CT Scanners: What You Should Know**

All new CT scanners sold in the US now comply with the National Electrical Manufacturers Association XR 25 CT Dose-Check Standard. In addition, manufacturers are making efforts to ensure that as many of their installed units as possible also meet this relatively new radiation safety standard. Compliant CT scanners can be configured to inform operators when scan settings would likely yield values of CTDIvol or DLP that would exceed pre-assigned values. These scanners allow users, before proceeding with scanning, to confirm or correct settings that might otherwise lead to unnecessarily high exposures. Manufacturers may include pre-assigned values in their default protocols, but all values are user-configurable. It is essential that radiologists, technologists and medical physicists working with CT know if their equipment meet this Dose Check Standard and how to use these new features to prevent unintended and unnecessary radiation exposure to their patients.

To learn more and/or take the pledge, please visit:

<http://www.imagewisely.org>

**CLOSE THIS WINDOW TO TAKE THE TEST.**