NURSING CARE FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING CESIUM-137 or IRIDIUM-192 THERAPY

If the following guidelines and maximum daily times are followed, nursing personnel can adequately care for Cesium-137 or Iridium-192 therapy patients and still remain below acceptable UCDHS and state limits of exposure to ionizing radiation.

A. Every patient receiving Cesium Intracavitary Therapy is to be restricted to bed. The bed may be elevated 15°. The patient can have a pillow under their knees and must remain on their back.

B. For Cesium Intracavitary Therapy, the patient must use a bed pan. An in-dwelling catheter is in place.

C. Health System personnel should spend only the amount of time near the patient that is required for ordinary nursing care. Personnel attending the patient must wear their film badges every time they enter the patient's room. Personnel must abide by the time schedule as indicated below. Personnel known to be pregnant should not work with these patients.

D. Patients are allowed non-pregnant visitors over 18 years of age. Visitors must sit at least six feet away from the patient and must follow the time schedule below.

E. No special precautions are needed for handling sputum, urine, feces, dishes, instruments, or utensils. None of these will be contaminated with radioactivity.

F. Bed linens and dressing, when changed, should be inspected for loose applicators, and placed in containers provided. After the physician has removed the applicator and all sources are accounted for, linen and dressings can be disposed of in the routine manner.

G. Perineal care is not given during the treatment, but the perineal pad may be changed as needed. Care should be taken not to disturb the applicator or sources.

H. If sources or applicators become displaced, do not try to replace them. Use the long forceps provided and place the sources in the shielded container. **DO NOT TOUCH THE SOURCE WITH YOUR HANDS.**
   Immediately call the physician at ________________ or the UCDHS Health Physics Office at 734-3355 or pager ________________. If neither are available, contact the physician on call. See Form 19 in the patient's chart.

I. Lead bed shields must be used by personnel.

J. If the patient needs emergency surgery or expires, notify the on-call health physicist and physician immediately.

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VISITORS AND STAFF
MUST FOLLOW
"MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE DAILY EXPOSURE TIMES"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure Rate (mR/hr)</th>
<th>Daily Nursing Times</th>
<th>Daily Visitation Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(time at 1 meter from patient)</td>
<td>(time at bedside)</td>
<td>(time at 2 meters)</td>
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When there is more than one therapy patient in a room, the indicated times include the exposure from the other patient(s).