

Resolution No. 11	New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitute <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>
Submitted By:	Council on Dental Practice		
Date Submitted:	April 5, 2024	Reference Committee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Direct to House <input type="checkbox"/>
Total Financial Implication:	\$ 0		
Amount One-time	\$ 0	Amount On-going	\$ none

Radiation Shielding

1 **Background Statement:** As a result of recent recommendations published on February
 2 1, 2024, by the American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Scientific Affairs, the use
 3 of lead abdominal aprons or thyroid collars on patients when conducting dental X-rays
 4 are no longer recommended and should be discontinued as routine practice. The
 5 recommendations are aligned with those released by the American Academy of Oral
 6 and Maxillofacial Radiology and supported by medical physicists with the Food and
 7 Drug Administration (FDA).

8 Evidence reviewed by the Council on Scientific Affairs' expert panel indicates that
 9 modern digital X-ray equipment and restricting the beam size to the area that needs to
 10 be imaged better protects patients against radiation exposure to other parts of their
 11 body. Lead aprons and thyroid collars can also block the primary X-ray beam,
 12 preventing dentists from capturing the image they need.

13 The recommendations apply to all patients, regardless of age or health status. They
 14 further state that dentists should order radiographs in moderation to limit patients'
 15 exposure, use digital rather than conventional radiographic film, and incorporate cone-
 16 beam computed tomography only when lower-exposure options will not provide the
 17 necessary diagnostic information.

18 X-ray technology has come a long way since its discovery in the late 1890s. Patient
 19 shielding was first recommended by the FDA in 1976. More than 50 years of research
 20 has shown that levels of radiation used in modern X-ray machines are so low that the
 21 risk of harm is very small. In 2019, the American Association of Physicists in Medicine
 22 recommended that lead aprons be discontinued in abdominal and pelvic medical
 23 imaging, which has since been adopted by multiple stakeholder organizations including
 24 the American College of Radiology.

25 In New York State, lead shielding is required by law, so dentists are not able to adopt
 26 the ADA's recommendations in their practice. The Council on Dental Practice agrees
 27 that current law and/or regulations should be changed so that dentists can be afforded

28 the opportunity to discontinue the use of lead shielding. It is understood that patients
29 and some practitioners may be reluctant to change, and education will be needed. The
30 American Dental Association is currently developing educational materials for this
31 purpose.

32 New York State Education Law, Section 6611. Special Provisions state:

33 *7. Any dentist or dental hygienist, who in the performance of dental services, x-rays the*
34 *mouth or teeth of a patient shall during the performance of such x-rays shield the torso*
35 *and thyroid area of such patient including but not limited to the gonads and other*
36 *reproductive organs with a lead apron thyroid collar, or other similar protective garment*
37 *or device. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, if in the dentist's*
38 *professional judgement, the use of a thyroid collar would be inappropriate under the*
39 *circumstances, because of the nature of the patient, the type of x-ray being taken, or*
40 *other factors, the dentist or dental hygienist need not shield the thyroid area.*

41 **Resolved**, that NYSDA seek necessary legislative and/or regulatory changes to
42 align with the recent recommendations on radiation shielding from the American
43 Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, as adopted by the American Dental
44 Association.

45

46 **Appendix A**

47 **Board Comments:** The Board recommends NYSDA seek necessary legislative and/or
48 regulatory changes to align with the recommendations on radiation shielding from the American
49 Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, as adopted by the American Dental Association.

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51 **BOARD RECOMMENDATION: VOTE YES**

name	yes	no	abstai n	abse nt	name	yes	no	abstai n	abse nt	name	yes	no	abstai n	abse nt
Casper-Klock	x				Galati	x				Krishnan	x			
Cloidt	x				Greenberg	x				Korkosz	x			
Cuomo	x				Hills	x				Miller	X			
Demas		x			Jackson	x				Mauleon	x			
Edwards	x				Jacobo	x				Scharoff	x			
Essig	x				Jonke	x				Stacy	X			
										Res #11				

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