POLICY: ANCILLARY TESTS-RADIOGRAPHY

**Policy:** Pathologists have access to X-ray equipment on site, housed in a confined area designated for the purpose and shielded to prevent exposure to x-rays by the staff. Radiographs of infants are required to detect occult fractures which may be physical evidence of abuse. Radiographs detect and locate foreign bodies and projectiles. Radiographs of charred remains may be required to detect external evidence of penetrating injury and identifying features.

**Procedure:**

1. When and how x-rays are taken.
2. By routine order, forensic technicians will X-ray:

* infants;
* victims of an explosion;
* gunshot victims;
* stabbing victims;
* charred remains;
* decedents for identification purposes when directed by the examining pathologist.

1. Forensic technicians will take X-rays at other times at the discretion of the pathologist.
2. A written schedule of exposures is posted near the equipment controls.
3. Each film is labeled internally with the case number and designation (always on right side).
4. The digital images are saved into the OCME Case Number labeled file and stored on the X-ray server.
5. X-ray viewing boxes are located in the equipment room, in the film-processing room, and on the wall near the autopsy tables.
6. Digital X-ray viewing software is installed on all pathologist office personal computers and morgue workstations.
7. Archived Films are stored in Medical Records in an area designated for that purpose and segregated from report folders.
8. Digital Xray Equipment and beam calibration is maintained by Kubtec.
9. Equipment is assessed for biomedical safety by the UCHC Radiation Safety department.