

# UCONN HEALTH

UCONN JOHN DEMPSEY  
HOSPITAL

SECTION: QUALITY MANAGEMENT

NUMBER: 11-009


SUBJECT: EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO PATIENTS CONTAMINATED  
WITH RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

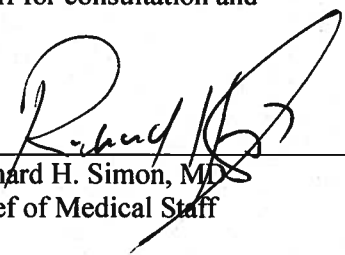
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PURPOSE: To effectively and safely handle emergencies involving radioactive material contaminated patient(s) and/or staff in the Emergency Department (ED).

## PROCEDURE:

1. Treatment of a patient's medical condition is always the first priority, while decontamination of a patient is secondary. All personnel having direct contact with a patient that may be contaminated with radioactive material must follow blood borne pathogen procedures. This step is taken so that staff can avoid direct contact with a patient's potentially contaminated clothing, skin and/or body fluids and significantly reduce the risk of spreading radioactive contamination.
2. If a contaminated individual is transported to the ED via ambulance/vehicle, then activate the Emergency Department's Hazardous Material Response Plan. The Procedure on the treatment of the radionuclide contaminated patient as described in the Emergency Department's Hazardous Material Response Plan should be followed.
3. In the event of a radioactive material contamination emergency for ED walk-ins, follow the Emergency Department's Hazardous Material Response Plan.
4. The Office of Radiation Safety maintains calibrated radiation detection equipment. This equipment can be used to provide radiation exposure assessment information for individuals who may have external and/or internal contamination with radioactive material and for follow up surveys of staff and areas/items involved. Contact the Office of Radiation Safety staff for consultation and emergency response to radioactive material contamination incidents.

  
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Date Issued: 1/78

Date Revised: 1/86, 7/86, 12/88, 8/91, 5/97, 2/00, 10/03, 9/05, 4/17, 3/21

Date Reviewed: 12/94, 9/09, 8/13