A. Purpose

Columbia University and the New York Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) provide a voluntary and confidential program for occupationally exposed workers who are pregnant. It is the policy of the Columbia University to limit the radiation dose to the embryo/fetus of a declared pregnant occupationally exposed worker to 5 mSv (0.5 rem) over the entire gestation period.

Further, it is the policy of the Columbia University to provide counseling and education to the declared pregnant woman with regard to the risks of radiation exposure and to consult with her regarding recommendations for maintaining the radiation dose to the embryo/fetus within the above limits and As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA). The declared pregnant woman is specifically protected from discharge or discrimination by the employer resulting from the pregnancy.

B. Scope

This policy applies to Columbia University and NYP workers who choose declare a pregnancy to the RSO.

C. Responsibility – N/A

D. Definitions – N/A

E. Procedures

The worker is responsible to voluntarily declare her pregnancy to the RSO or designee. Upon declaration of pregnancy, the RSO or designee will review with the worker her previous dose history and current and/or planned future work practices to determine the need for additional dosimetry and/or adjust working conditions (e.g. changes in work assignments, practices or schedules) if necessary so as to avoid a monthly exposure of more than 0.5 mSv (0.05 rem) to embryo/fetus. The results of this review will be communicated to the worker in writing.

The RSO can be contacted at (212) 305-0303.

F. Emergency contacts – N/A

G. Cross References – N/A

H. Medical surveillance – N/A

I. Recordkeeping – N/A

J. Appendices – N/A
K. Forms

http://ehs.columbia.edu/PregnancyPolicyMC.pdf

L. References – Available upon request

M. Acknowledgements – N/A