

## TEN-DAY-RULE

The “ten-day rule” is the standard procedure in all Clinics when deciding whether a female patient of childbearing age can be safely radiated:

- A female patient who declares pregnancy will not be x-rayed at the Parker Clinics. If radiographic procedures are required on a pregnant patient, she will be referred to an alternate facility.
- Radiographs in the pelvic/hip/lumbar/abdominal regions of a female of childbearing age may be taken only within 10 days from the onset of their last menstrual period (LMP).
- If a female patient’s injuries are not in the pelvic or nearby area (lumbar, hip), an unknown fetus would not be in the direct x-ray beam. Pelvic shielding will be used, and the radiation doses will be kept as low as possible.
- A female patient with an LMP exceeding 28 days is not eligible for radiographs unless a pregnancy test with a negative (non-pregnant) result is confirmed on the day of the X-ray exam. The result of the pregnancy test must be noted on the radiology requisition and initialed by the attending Clinic Faculty Doctor.
- The attending Clinic Doctor signing the requisition may choose to waive the ten-day rule for the following:
  - Bilateral tubal ligation for sterilization purposes
  - Hysterectomy or bilateral oophorectomy
  - Post-menopausal women

If the "Ten Day Rule" is waived, the phrase "Ten Day Rule waived due to (insert one of the above reasons)" will be annotated on the radiographic requisition and initialed by the Clinic Doctor. This same notation will be added to the patient's progress notes and signed by the Clinic Doctor.