(A) Policy Statement

Immobilization devices for patients will be used only after other options have been exhausted. Immobilizing is defined as tying or holding a patient or body part(s) down: stopping them from moving at will.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To protect the patient’s rights, to provide for the least restrictive environment, and to provide guidelines for safe and appropriate use of restraining devices.

(C) Procedure

The need for patient restraint/immobilization during imaging procedures is assessed by the technologist, radiologist, and/or both in an effort to obtain a quality exam/procedure.

If restraint/immobilization is deemed as necessary, the least restrictive of the following techniques should be used:

1. sandbag  
2. tape (digits only)  
3. family member holding  
4. kerlex  
5. safety strap (compression band)  
6. patient comfort bands  
7. immobilization devices (Pigg-O stat; ped, mummification board, etc.)

RN’s, RT’s, Residents and/or attending Radiologist (besides the patient’s own referring physician) may apply the restraint/immobilization device.

Patients and their families must receive an explanation of the purpose and necessity of the restraining device and the necessary change in behavior to warrant their removal.

This immobilization will only be utilized for the duration of the radiographic procedure/exam.