

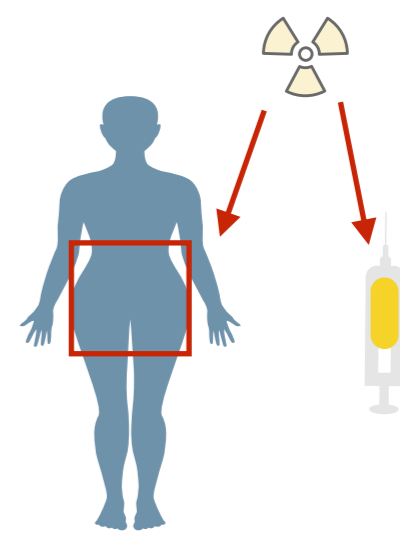
National Pregnancy Policy

A practical implementation for Practitioners

Scope



- This policy is employed when referring a patient of childbearing age (12-55years old) for Medical Radiation Exposure between the diaphragm and symphysis pubis and any radionuclide imaging procedures.
- This is a practical guide for practitioners in the implementation of the National Pregnancy Policy as adapted by Beaumont Hospital.



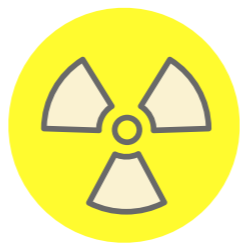
Practitioners are persons who are taking responsibility for an individual medical exposure of a patient¹



Registered Doctor



Registered Dentist

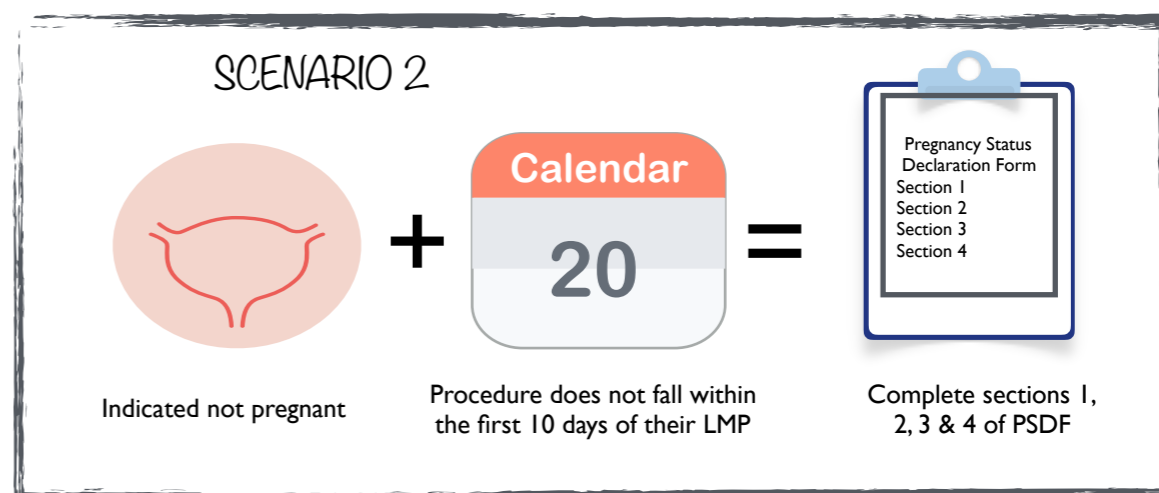
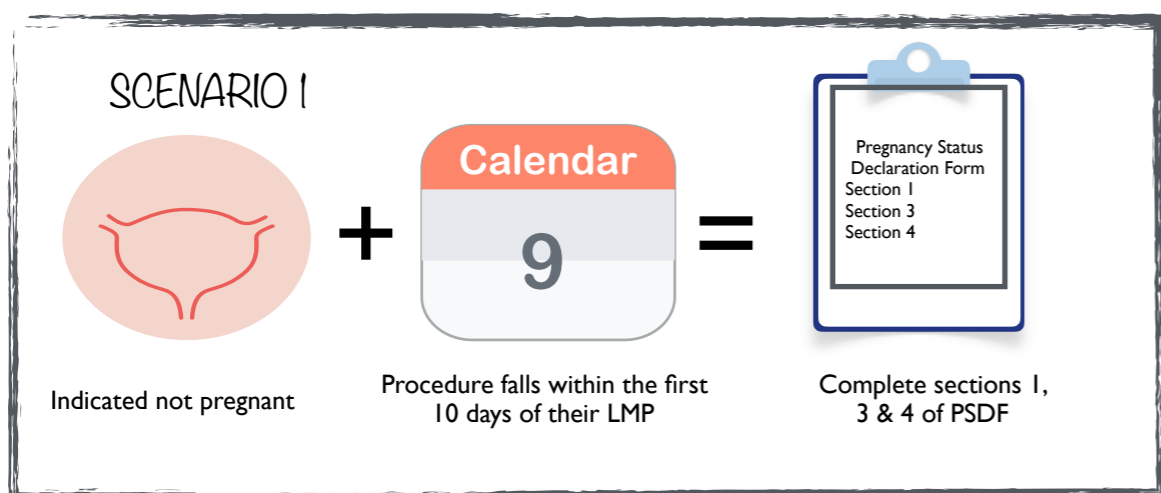


Registered Radiographer

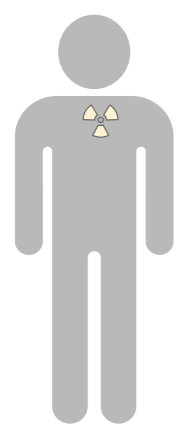
Pre-medical irradiation a practitioner shall:

- Ensure correct patient identification and procedure matching
- Patient is queried if pregnant or might be pregnant
- Elucidate to patient the risks of radiation exposure to the foetus
- Observed steps required as shown below

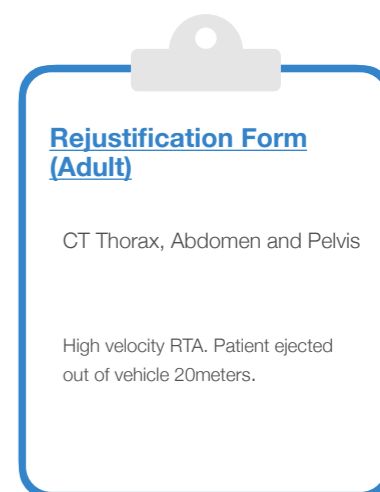
Practical Implementation



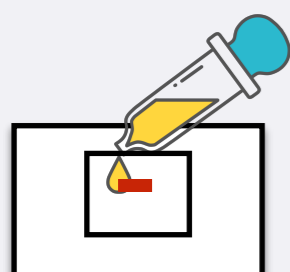
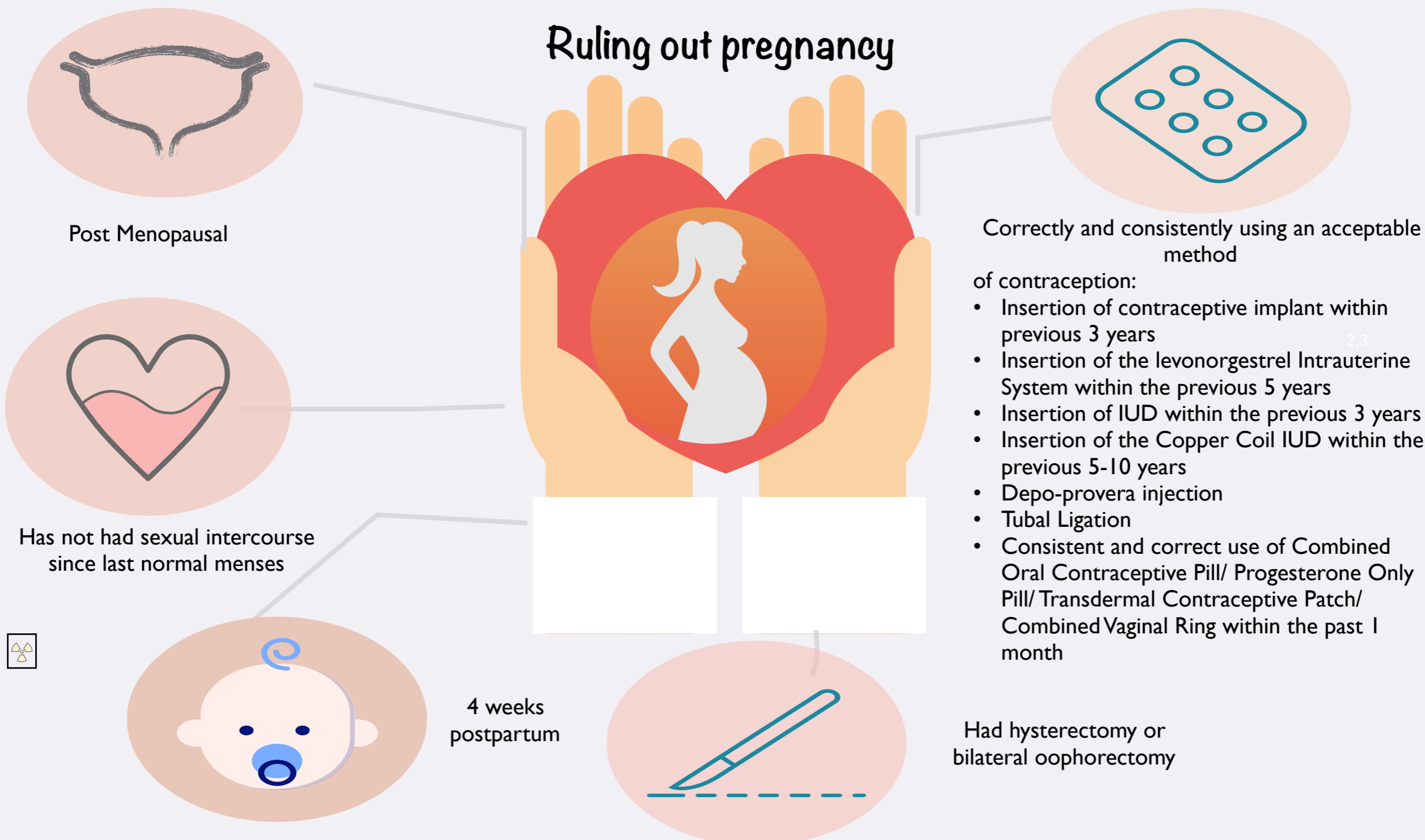
When Patient is Pregnant or cannot exclude the possibility of pregnancy



In conjunction with referrer, review the justification for the procedure. Document the actions involving the justifications in the REJUSTIFICATION FORM should medical radiation exposure is deemed justified.



Ruling out pregnancy



- The policy does not advocate the use of or reliance on urine pregnancy test as it is unreliable in early pregnancy and false negatives are common.
- Studies have established that pregnancy test packs sensitivity varies and dependent on how they can detect HCG and level of HCG.^{2,3}



A copy of the National Pregnancy Policy is available in Q-pulse

(1) SI 256 of 2018 European Union (Basic Safety Standards for Protection Against Dangers Arising from Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation) Regulation 2018

(2) Johnson S, Cushion M, Bond S, Godbert S, Pike J, 2015 Comparison of Analytical sensitivity and women's interpretation of home pregnancy test. Clin Chem Lab Med 2015; 53(3):391-402

(3) Gnath C, Johnson S, 2014 Strips of Hope: Accuracy of Home Pregnancy Tests and New Developments. Geburtshilfe Frauenheilkd. 2014; 74(7):661-669