The following is a guideline to assist both the members and management of the Dental practice with the development of a policy directing action in the event that a staff member receives a report indicating an occupational exposure to x-radiation that exceeds 1 mSv in one year.

Policy of: _____ (Name of Practice)

Date: _____ (Creation Date)

Revision No. _____(Date)

Title:

Excessive or Abnormal Occupational Radiation Exposure.

Event:

In the event that a worker employed in _____(Name of Practice) exceeds or may exceed the action level, 1.0 mSv, ionizing radiation, the employer must ensure that the worker is provided with and properly uses a personal dosimeter acceptable to WorkSafeBC. If a monitoring program using personal dosimeters is in place, the expected recorded exposure levels should be lower than the action level. If not, then actions 1, 2 and 3 below must be implemented. If the action level is recorded or exceeded, then all actions below must be completed.

Action:

1. The employer will immediately investigate to determine the cause of the apparent or real exposure.
2. A radiation surveyor will be called upon and will conduct a radiation survey of the work place.
3. If the above efforts reveal a cause associated with the workplace or workplace activities, then this cause will be investigated and immediate remedial action will be undertaken.
4. WorkSafeBC will be contacted by the person responsible for radiation safety in the practice.
5. A report which details the findings, appropriate actions and outcomes of the actions will be retained by the practice.

Signed: _____ (Individual responsible for radiation safety)

Addendum 1: High Exposure Notifications will be provided by the National Dose Registry **only** in the event that an employee receives in excess of 50 mSv. This is 50 times the "action level" identified above. In this case, WorkSafeBC as well as the employer will be contacted by the National Dose Registry.

Addendum 2: *Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) X-Ray machines are relatively new to dentistry. Current practice in B.C. requires that a personal dosimetry monitoring program be established for operators of this equipment and others that may be exposed to the X-Radiation from these machines. The 1.0 mSv per year exposure action level currently applies to operators of CBCT X-Ray machines.*