



People you know. Care you trust.

401 North Ewing Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130
www.fmchealth.org

Contact: Donna Stalter
Fairfield Medical Center
Public Relations Specialist
(740) 687-8108
donnas@fmchealth.org

NEWS RELEASE

(For immediate release)

FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER CT DEPARTMENT PROTECTS ITS PATIENTS

LANCASTER, Ohio (November 13, 2009) – Fairfield Medical Center has gone to great lengths to ensure that patients receive the safest care possible. Recently, CT overexposures have been in the national headlines and according to the (FDA), facilities that perform CT scan imaging should review its CT scan protocols and be aware of the dose indices normally displayed on the control panel when performing CT scans. This is to ensure that accidental overexposure does not occur.

For the past several years, Fairfield Medical Center has been proactive in keeping up with the latest technology in the Computed Tomography (CT) Department, while ensuring patient safety during CT scans. During the last two years new, state of the art, CT scanners were purchased and the department was renovated to include better access for patients. Rigorous preventive maintenance of both machines ensures optimum performance and that appropriate radiation is being produced for each exam.

Computed Tomography, or CT, is a very important diagnostic tool used by doctors to discover and monitor many medical conditions. CT was developed in the 1970's and has continued to make astonishing advances in image quality. Many examinations that were previously done by regular X-Ray are now routinely done in CT, providing more information and increasing diagnostic quality. However, CT requires a higher radiation dose to the patient.

At Fairfield Medical Center dose reduction techniques are applied on every examination. Appropriate parameters are selected based on patient age, weight, and condition. Radiation is also adjusted based on the body part and thickness that is being scanned. Additionally, dose information is permanently retained as part of each examination.

In February 2009, FMC voluntarily sought and received accreditation from the American College of Radiology (ACR). According to Shawn Farley, Director of Public Affairs for ACR, only 4,000 facilities nationwide are accredited. Such programs help prevent errors through consistent guidelines for protocol oversight and standards.

Moreover, the CT technologists at Fairfield Medical Center have voluntarily worked hard to obtain American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) registration in CT. Dan Jackson (Lancaster), Kay Sims (Lancaster), Paula Pettis (Pickerington), Heather Doty (Logan), Chasitie

Strickler (Amanda) and Melissa Robers (Lancaster) are all CT registered. This registration process includes documented clinical competencies and knowledge of CT practice that includes radiation safety and a written examination.

During September 19-22, 2009, CT Technologists Melissa Robers (Lancaster) and Nikki Wyant (Canal Winchester) attended the CT Dose Reduction and Scanning Techniques Master Series Course at the GE Healthcare Institute in Wisconsin. They continue to share their experience and education with the other CT Technologists at Fairfield Medical Center.

In summary, special CT scan precautions taken at Fairfield Medical Center include:

- State of the art equipment and rigorous maintenance.
- The CT Department at Fairfield Medical Center is American College of Radiology (ACR) accredited.
- CT Technologists, recently completed radiation safety and dose reduction classes at GE learning center in Milwaukee.
- CT Technologists are CT Registered through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).
- Dose information is permanently retained as part of the patient's exam.
- Dose reduction techniques are applied on every exam. Dose indices are monitored as recommended by the FDA.

#