

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
RADIATION CONTROL**

5800 W. 10th Street
Little Rock, AR 72206

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bernard Bevill, Section Chief
FROM: Sherry Davidson, X-ray Program Supervisor
DATE: May 21, 2009
SUBJECT: X-ray Film Retention

Pursuant to the Arkansas Board of Health Rules and Regulations for Hospitals and Related Institutions, page 2--3 item 19. "Actual X-ray film shall be retained for 5 years".

Additionally, in regard to film retention at facilities that perform routine radiography, the X-ray Program colleagues propose the following *guidelines*.

- 1) Retain all radiography studies for 5 years.
- 2) Retain all radiography studies on joint replacements for 10 years.
- 3) Retain all radiographs on minor children until the time of their eighteenth birthday.
- 4) As to the retention of patients who are deceased, this should be left to the discretion of the facility administrator and/or physicians.

NOTE: This guideline does not apply to retention of mammography images which is regulated under MQSA.