

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ): DOSIMETRY REQUIREMENTS IN DENTAL CLINICS



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## ARE ALL STAFF MEMBERS REQUIRED TO WEAR A DOSIMETER FOR ONE YEAR?

Not necessarily. The requirement to wear dosimetry depends on each staff member's potential for radiation exposure.

For example, **front desk and clerical staff** may not be required to wear dosimeters if they are located far enough away from X-ray equipment and are adequately shielded from exposure.

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## DO FRONT DESK AND CLERICAL STAFF NEED DOSIMETRY IF THEY DO NOT PERFORM X-RAYS OR PANORAMIC SCANS?

This depends on the **layout of the dental clinic** and the proximity of these staff to the X-ray source.

- If the front desk or clerical staff are **close to the X-ray equipment** and could potentially receive radiation exposure, a **Radiation Health Officer (RHO)** may request dosimetry records for them.
- If there is **sufficient distance or shielding**, and no realistic potential for exposure, dosimetry for these staff members would **not be required**.

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## WHAT IS CONSIDERED A “SUFFICIENT DISTANCE” TO ENSURE SAFETY FROM RADIATION EXPOSURE?

There is **no specific regulation** prescribing an exact safe distance.

The determination is based on the **professional judgment of a Radiation Health Officer**, who will consider:

- The **type and modality** of the X-ray equipment, and;
- The **layout and shielding design** of the clinic.

Generally, situations where dosimetry is required for non-operating staff are **exceptions**—for example, when:

- There is **insufficient shielding** between the X-ray room and administrative areas, or;
- The front desk or clerical area **shares a wall** with an X-ray room.

## HOW IS A “1-YEAR DOSIMETRY PERIOD” DEFINED UNDER THE RADIATION HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS (2024)?

The Regulations define a “**1-year dosimetry period**” as the **calendar year beginning January 1** and ending December 31.

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## WE BEGAN OUR DOSIMETRY MONITORING PROGRAM ON JUNE 1, 2024. DO WE NEED TO CONTINUE UNTIL JANUARY 2026 TO MEET THE 1-YEAR REQUIREMENT?

No.

Participating in a dosimetry program for **twelve consecutive months** satisfies the requirements of the Regulations, **regardless of the start and end dates**.

In this case, monitoring from **June 1, 2024, to May 31, 2025**, would fulfill the one-year dosimetry requirement.

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## WHY DOES THE NATIONAL DOSIMETRY SERVICE (NDS) REQUEST AN EMPLOYEE’S SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER (SIN)?

The SIN is used for identification and tracking purposes to ensure that each dosimeter is correctly assigned to the individual who wears it. This allows the person to contact the NDS at any time to access their historical dosimetry records.