

I AM PATIENT SAFETY



Elizabeth Martin, RT (R) (VI), RCES

LANCASTER GENERAL HEALTH

Recognized for her dedication to patient safety by the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority

Elizabeth Martin is committed to patient safety at Lancaster General Health. As a radiologic technologist, she volunteered to serve as the electrophysiology and pacing department's radiation safety officer. Her goals were to reduce patient exposure and increase the safety of fellow staff members and physicians.

Beth worked closely with the x-ray equipment vendor, staff and physicians to identify action steps to reduce radiation exposure for all. The team identified several key strategies including, but not limited to: partnering with the x-ray equipment vendor to establish the lowest standard equipment settings that still provided accurate images; providing education and training opportunities for staff; developing a radiation time-out to alert the physician when 30 minutes of fluoroscopy time was reached; using Gafchromic film to measure radiation exposure; and developing a database to track patients' exposure information. A post-implementation study shows a 44 percent decrease in radiation exposure to patients from calendar year 2011 to 2012.

Beth continues to educate physicians and staff about the dangers of radiation exposure and the importance of compliance with the guidelines established through this project.

Join the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority in congratulating Elizabeth Martin for making patient safety at Lancaster General Health a priority.

