

## WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

X-RAY SECTION, 1-800-299-XRAY

### Beam Collimation Information

[WAC 246-225-060](#) requires all radiographic images to show evidence of beam collimation, i.e., proof that the beam was no larger than the image receptor or cassette used. This means that for all films, a small unexposed (“white”) edge should show on at least 3 sides of the film, and for digital images, the raw image shown on the display monitor must be inside the edges of the CR cassette or direct digital detector.

The benefits of proper collimation are:

1. Reduction of unnecessary X-ray exposure to the patient.
2. Increased clarity and quality of the image because scatter is reduced.
3. Reduced exposure to yourself or your employees because scatter is reduced.
4. Legal protection, since using proper collimation makes it evident that tissues outside the field of clinical interest have not been exposed.

**Below are images which show good collimation.**

