

## **CAOMR Policy Statement on the Use of Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT)**

### Prescription of the examination:

All CBCT examinations should only be prescribed after a comprehensive clinical examination has been completed by the referring dentist or dental specialist who is providing the treatment.

All CBCT examinations should be justified, and the reason for imaging and information from the clinical examination and/or history must be documented. As for any radiographic examination, the benefit of a CBCT examination should outweigh the potential risk.

A CBCT examination should not be prescribed as a screening examination or routinely. It should only be prescribed if the dentist is expecting to obtain diagnostic information that would affect the patient care.

CBCT imaging should not be prescribed for administrative purposes, and Ethics Board approval must be obtained prior to image prescription in research projects.

### Optimisation of the examination and radiation dose reduction:

Imaging parameters should be selected to keep radiation dose as low as reasonably achievable without compromising image quality required for the diagnostic task for which the CBCT examination is being acquired. Factors may include but are not limited to using the smallest field of view possible to obtain the required diagnostic information and using exposure settings that are matched to the patient's age and size. Patients should wear a lead apron during the examination, as well as a thyroid collar when it will not interfere with image acquisition.

### Interpretation of the images:

All CBCT examinations must be interpreted and a written report must be prepared.

The entire field-of-view of the examination must be interpreted.

### CBCT equipment maintenance and quality assurance:

Owners of CBCT machines must maintain appropriate documentation of equipment licensure as an ionizing radiation device, quality assurance and control tests, and retake logs, as per the licensing body protocols. CBCT operators must receive adequate theoretical and practical training to use the CBCT machine.