



**Council on  
Diagnostic Imaging**



## **CDI POSITION STATEMENT**

### **LATERAL BENDING VIEWS OF THE SPINE**

- A. Are reserved additional views, not considered as part of the initial routine radiographic examination; unless specific trauma or biomechanical dysfunction is documented by history or clinical evaluation which suggests findings unattainable by other means.
- B. Are performed initially only in those patients where prior treatment has been unsuccessful or where objective clinical findings or treatment resistive symptom expression suggests an as yet undiscovered occult pathology.
- C. Are performed only of the cervical or lumbar spine.
- D. Are to be performed sectionally only in the cervical and lumbar areas, unless used to demonstrate flexion of a scoliosis.
- E. Repeat utilization is rarely indicated save in those cases where appropriate response to treatment is lacking or where re-injury or exacerbation has been clinically documented.

The above guidelines are based on the recognized principle that exposure to unnecessary ionizing radiation represents an unwarranted health hazard.

The guidelines are consistent with the rules of conduct when employing radiographic procedures common throughout the health care community and are consistent with those recommended by the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Food & Drug Administration of the Department of Health & Human Services.