**Radiographer -- Identifying Fractures**

Radiographers must be very good in anatomy so that they can take accurate “pictures” of the body’s internal structures. Medical radiographers often x-ray bones and must be able to recognize different types of fractures. They work in hospitals, outpatient medical imaging centers, physicians’ offices, or mobile imaging companies producing images of the human body as an aid in the diagnosis of disease and injury. Below you will find common vocabulary Radiographers use daily.

**Radiograph** - x-ray picture

**Radiographer** - registered technologist who takes radiographs

**Radiologist** - medical doctor who reads and interprets radiographs

**XR** - x-ray

**AP** -*anterior/posterior*; means body structure being imaged was positioned so that the x-raybeam entered from the front and exited the back of body part

**PA** -*posterior/anterior*; means body structure being imaged is positioned so that x-ray beamenters the back and exits the front of body part

**Lateral** - means body structure being imaged is positioned so that x-ray beam enters it from theside

**fx** - medical acronym for*fracture or broken bones*

**Closed fx** - a fracture that does not break through the skin

**Open (compound) fx** - a fracture that pierces the skin

**Greenstick fx** - an incomplete fracture in which the bone bends or splinters instead of breaking;normally seen in small children who still have flexible bones

**Transverse fx** - a fracture that goes across a bone; often caused by sudden strong stretchingforce or a direct impact on the bone

**Oblique fx** - an angled fracture; these fractures require close follow-up because of the likelihoodof slipping within the cast, resulting in nonunion

**Spiral fx** - a long fracture encircling the bone shaft due to twisting force; especially common inlower leg injuries

**Comminuted fx** - one fracture that is made up of several fragments; fragments are oftenshattered, crushed or splintered

**Depression fx** - a fracture in which bone is pushed inward; most depression fractures occur inthe skull

**Impacted fracture** - usually an incomplete fracture; occurs where bone fragments are driveninto one another; area of over-lapping bone can be seen radiographically as a dense area of disrupted cortical bone

**Longitudinal fx** - a fracture that runs the length of bone; usually incomplete

**Colle’s fx** - a fracture that occurs at the wrist; shearing of distal radius and sometimes styloidprocess of ulna

**Dislocation** - when bones that form a joint become separated