

Continuing Education Requirements for Operators of X-ray Equipment in Medical Chiropractic Facilities

The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Bureau of Radiation Protection (BRP) prepared this fact sheet to help registrants understand the regulations in 25 Pa. Code Section 221.11 (Registrant Responsibilities) and to promote awareness of the importance of continuing education with respect to radiation safety. This regulation applies to all individuals (chiropractors and technologists) who operate X-ray equipment. The registrant shall ensure that initial instruction and continuing education training have been conducted in the topics listed in Chapter 221, Appendix A, Determination of Competence. Appendix A is included on the reverse side of this fact sheet.

Continuing Education

Once initially instructed, the operator is required to have continuing education training in the key areas of radiation safety, biological effects of radiation, quality assurance, and quality control to ensure continuing competence. The operation of X-ray systems in chiropractic facilities is considered a low-risk procedure. All operators of X-ray equipment in a chiropractic facility must demonstrate continuing education every four years to satisfy the requirement in 25 Pa. Code Section 221.11. If an operator of X-ray equipment is already required to take continuing education courses for maintenance of a license or certification, the course may be applied toward BRP's requirement as long as the radiation safety topics are addressed. *NOTE: BRP's continuing education requirement is not related to an operator's license or certification and does not affect that process. Some courses may satisfy the BRP's requirement, but not necessarily satisfy the Department of State's or a board's certification requirement. Check with the appropriate organization for verification.*

List of Resources

A list of resources can be found on BRP's webpage at <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/RadiationProtection/RadiationControl/X-rayMachineProgram/Pages/ContinuingEd.aspx>. The list is not all inclusive nor does it imply any solicitation or endorsement by BRP of any one resource. The resource relevant to the chiropractic field is listed below. Courses may be taken online, in the classroom, or through in-service training. The course content must address the radiation safety topics in Appendix A to be acceptable. Contact the following resource for relevant courses:

American Chiropractic Registry of Radiologic Technologists www.acrrt.com

A refresher course in radiation safety for all individuals who operate medical X-ray equipment, other than accelerators, can be found at www.dep.pa.gov.

Documentation

The registrant must retain training documents at the facility for each operator of X-ray equipment. The documents will be reviewed for completion and to verify competence during a regularly scheduled BRP routine inspection.

APPENDIX A DETERMINATION OF COMPETENCE

The registrant shall ensure that individuals who operate diagnostic X-ray equipment have received training on the subjects listed in this appendix. The individual shall be trained and competent in the general operation of the X-ray equipment and in the following subject areas, as applicable to the procedures performed and the specific equipment utilized:

- (1) Basic properties of radiation
- (2) Units of measurement
- (3) Sources of radiation exposure
- (4) Methods of radiation protection
- (5) Biological effects of radiation exposure
- (6) X-ray equipment
- (7) Image recording and processing
- (8) Patient exposure and positioning
- (9) Procedures
- (10) Quality assurance
- (11) Regulations

For further assistance, contact the DEP Regional Office applicable to the facility location as shown below:

| Region | Phone | Region Headquarters | Counties Served |
|---------|--------------|---|---|
| East | 484-250-5950 | 2 East Main St. Norristown, PA 19401 | Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming |
| Central | 717-705-4700 | 909 Elmerton Ave. Harrisburg, PA 17110 | Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York, Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union |
| West | 412-442-4000 | 400 Waterfront Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745 | Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and Warren |

References

Pennsylvania Code Title 25 Regulations, www.pacodeandbulletin.gov.

For more information, visit www.dep.pa.gov or call the BRP at 717-787-3720.