



*Protecting, Maintaining and Improving  
The Life of All Minnesotans*



**MAY 2008**

**Radiation Control, X-ray Unit  
Minnesota Department of Health  
625 Robert Street North  
PO Box 64975  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975**

Phone: 651-201-4545

Fax: 651-201-4606

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/xray](http://www.health.state.mn.us/xray)

Email: [x-ray@health.state.mn.us](mailto:x-ray@health.state.mn.us)

## Email address change

To ensure that all state departments have the same email address extension, all Department of Health email addresses will change to `firstname.lastname@state.mn.us` (health removed) effective by December 2008. As of today, both email addresses work for most addresses, the exception being our general email address above.

## Switching to digital?

If you are switching to digital x-ray there are a few things you should be aware of. The first and most important is that the term Digital refers to the imaging media and process. The system is still using x-ray to create the image and therefore the regulations regarding x-ray registration and use still apply. If you still have a processor for a non-digital unit, then all the standard QC regulations apply as well.

Due to the varying technologies in use between the different digital manufacturers, there is no one set of QC rules covering them. The MDH rules require you to follow the QC as designed by the unit manufacturer. You must have a copy of the operator's manual that identifies what tests you are required to follow, the frequency of the tests and the acceptable limits. You are still required to maintain any QC test records from inspection to inspection by the MDH. MDH has established a policy that will allow you to purge records from QC tests that are no longer applicable.

## Transfer of Images

The mandate of the MDH is to limit the radiation exposure to patients and employees. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the images you transfer are of diagnostic quality. When you request or supply films, communicate the need of the films. If the requesting facility is unable to adequately use paper images, then send a disk. Make sure the patient doesn't need to have additional exposure from a miscommunication.



Chapter 4732 is available at the Minnesota Bookstore for \$13.95 plus shipping and tax. Call 651-297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757 or order online at [www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/bookstore.asp](http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/bookstore.asp)

## Quality Control resources

For questions that come up and are not answered on our quality control webpage at [www.health.state.mn.us/xray](http://www.health.state.mn.us/xray), a good resource is the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors' website at [www.crcpd.org](http://www.crcpd.org). This group is made up of all the state radiation control programs directors, and you can search their website on particular topics, many with examples on how something should look. For example, if you had a question about sensitometry/densitometry, they have information and an example of a daily QC chart. There is a link on our website to the CRCPD quality control documents.

Bulletins are transmitted electronically. This decreases printing and postage costs and it helps to keep your fees as low as possible. If you would like to receive these bulletins by email, please submit your request with your name, facility name, and registration number (if you know it) to [Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us](mailto:Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us).  
Thank you!



## Dental Technique Charts

Minnesota Rule 4732.0550 requires that every x-ray unit have a chart listing the technique used for all anatomical parts to be imaged (which view) with patient size, and the type of film or digital sensor used. Your Service Provider may provide you with the maximum allowable technique to meet the dose requirements for posterior bitewing technique. In that case, the facility must complete the chart for all other views.

The Rule provides an exception for units with an anatomical programmed console. If the unit has anatomical programming (control with specific views listed) then a paper chart would only be required for any techniques that routinely vary from the programming.

## CT Repeat Analysis

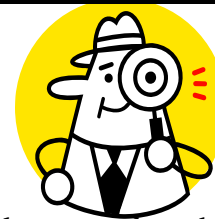
The Minnesota Radiological Society has come up with a reasonable proposal that will hopefully minimize issues with CT repeats. MDH has accepted the proposal with minor modifications. The full letter is on our website under 4732 Information, minus their recommendation of 1,000 series having been performed before an analysis is done.

CT repeat rate will be defined as the Total Number of Repeated *Series*/Total Number of *Series*:

- A series will need to be defined by the facility (for example, a series will be with or without contrast material)
- Analysis will be done quarterly, unless 1,000 series are performed in a quarter, then analysis can be done for that quarter
- Topograms/scouts will be excluded from repeat analysis
- Analysis will not apply to Interventional CT or scans that are a part of a therapeutic procedure
- Facilities will need to check the website for the categories that could result in a repeated *series*.

Radiation Control, X-Ray Unit  
Minnesota Department of Health  
625 Robert Street North  
PO Box 64975  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975

## Inspector's Corner



### When will I be inspected?

The MDH schedules standard inspections on a cycle based on geography. The inspectors schedule an area based on previous inspection dates, travel considerations and inspector availability. While the goal is to maintain an inspection cycle of four years, the variable factors have caused some variation. If you note that inspections have been conducted in your area and you have not been called, feel free to contact us.

### Flood Season

Spring brings floods to many parts on Minnesota. If there has been a flood in your facility, please refer to the MDH website for guidance. Contact your Service Provider to determine if an x-ray unit that has been in a flood is safe to use and inform MDH in writing that you have been affected by flooding.

### Image Gently Campaign

Launched in January by the founding members of the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging, the Image Gently campaign responds to growing concerns of exposure to increased radiation in children. We encourage you to visit their website [www.imagegently.org](http://www.imagegently.org) to learn more. There's a link to their website on our home page at [www.health.state.mn.us/xray](http://www.health.state.mn.us/xray).

## Our website is a great resource!

- Radiation Safety Officer page
- X-ray Operator page
- Service Provider page
- Quality Control procedures
- Shielding & Screening pages
- Registration Forms
- 4732 Information (Bulletins, Sample Forms, Information Notices, and Rule Presentations)