



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving
the Life of All Minnesotans



FEBRUARY 2009

**Radiation Control, X-ray Unit
Minnesota Department of Health
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New email address

Our general email account has changed to health.xray@state.mn.us. If you tried emailing us at our new address and experienced problems, we've corrected the issue and you shouldn't have any problems in the future. Please notify us immediately if you encounter errors, thank you!

CT Education recommended

An industry panel of 32 experts, jointly sponsored by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), consisting of experts in health policy, CT manufacturing, clinical practice and education, have recommended that CT operators be given more education. The panel developed nine consensus statements, based on a straw poll that looked at skills and competencies of CT operators. The areas to be focused on:

- Patient safety, regulations and reimbursement
- Education and practice
- CT in diagnostic radiology, radiation therapy and nuclear medicine

The panel's full recommendations were recently published in a consensus paper, "Computed Tomography in the 21st Century: Changing Practice for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals." It is available on the ASRT website at www.asrt.org/CTconsensus and on the ARRT website at www.rrt.org/CTconsensus.

Bulletins are sent electronically. If you would like to receive these bulletins by email, please submit your request to Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us. You can visit our website at www.health.state.mn.us/xray, click on Publications, to see our past Bulletins.



Mammography Health Alert from the CRCPD H-11 Committee

We are concerned that women may improperly use topical anesthetics, such as lidocaine gel, prior to mammography and want to remind the public and healthcare professionals about the potential for topical anesthetics to produce life-threatening adverse effects when used improperly.

Improper use may include (but is not limited to):

- Applying too much of the topical anesthetic
- Applying to a large area of skin
- Applying to irritated or broken skin
- Covering the skin with a wrap or using a heating pad after applying the topical anesthetic

FDA's message for healthcare professionals who are considering recommending a topical anesthetic prior to mammography is that the following should be discussed with your patients:

- The potential side effects of topical anesthetics
- How to detect any side effects of topical anesthetics
- How to lower the chance of life-threatening side effects from topical anesthetics
- What to do if side effects from a topical anesthetic occur

For more information see our public health advisory at www.fda.gov/cder/drug/advisory/topical_anesthetics2009.htm.

Website Changes

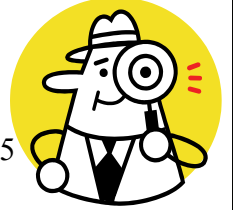
We've heard complaints that facilities can't seem to find what they're looking for on our website. We've made some changes to help you better navigate through our website. Be sure to check out our Site Map if you can't find something, it's located on our Home Page at www.health.state.mn.us/xray.

- All sample documents and information notices are on one page, 4732 Info (excluding QC documents)
- Site Map gives more detailed information

Web Site Map

4732 Information	Information Notices (ALARA, Crossover, CT Repeat Analysis, Inspection Survival, Radiation Audit, Technique Chart)
	Sample Documents (Annual Audit, Crossover Worksheet, RSO Delegation Agreement, Repeat Reject Worksheet, Utilization Log)
	Training Presentations
4732 Rules	Links to specific Rule parts
	Links to the Rule, Sonar, and specific changes
Industrial Radiographer	Exam dates and info
Mammography	Mammography Quality Standards Act info
Publications	Bulletins
Quality Control	QC guidelines, forms and documents
Radiation Safety Officer	RSO training resources and Delegation Agreement
Reciprocity	Temporary equipment application
Registration Forms	Initial and Additional Reg
	Equipment Transfer
	Change of Facility Info
Screening	Screening application and Annual Report form
Service Provider	SP Registration form
	SP Vendor list
Shielding	Shielding Plan form
	Placard requirements
X-ray FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
X-ray Operator	Examination process
	Application
	ARRT contact and exam info
	Classes, online courses and books

Inspector's Corner



Shielding Plans

Minnesota Rule Chapter 4732.0355 requires all new and remodeled x-ray rooms to meet certain shielding conditions. The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements recommends that a qualified expert evaluate the need for this shielding (NCRP 147). While this rule chapter does not define "qualified expert," shielding evaluations should be done by someone knowledgeable about radiation safety and shielding.

All shielding plans required by chapter 4732.0355 must be reviewed by MDH, *except* for the following facilities:

- Dental intra-oral
- Mammography units
- Podiatry units
- Cabinet x-ray systems
- Self-shielded accelerators

Fog Test Article from July 2008 Bulletin

There's been some confusion from dental facilities regarding the article below on Fog Tests from the July 2008 Bulletin. **Their exemption is below:**

A common violation inspectors see is improperly done fog tests. The problem is usually not pre-exposing the film before performing the test:

- The film needs to be exposed to a density of 1.0 (can barely read print through it) before the test can be performed.
- Cover half the film in the darkroom and wait 2 minutes before running through.
- Dental clinics that use a stepwedge, cover half your normal daily stepwedge for 2 minutes.
- **Dental facilities with only intraoral films are NOT required to pre-expose their films prior to performing their fog tests**



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