



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving
The Life of All Minnesotans



OCTOBER 2008

Radiation Control, X-ray Unit
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Email Address Change

Effective October 2008, all State of Minnesota email addresses, including the Department of Health, will change to firstname.lastname@state.mn.us (health removed). As of today, both email addresses work for most addresses, the exception being our general email address above.

Past Bulletins

It's been one year since we started sending out our Monthly X-ray Bulletins. If you would like to see past copies of the Bulletin, visit our Publications page at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/radiation/xray/publications.html.

Virtual Colonoscopy

Results from the American College of Radiology Imaging Network National CT Colonography Trial, have concluded that CT Colonography is comparable to standard colonoscopy in detecting cancer and precancerous polyps for the third most frequently diagnosed cancer in the US. Standard colonoscopy is still the gold standard, but CT Colonography provides an alternative method of screening for colon cancer. There are two ways that CT can be used for screening, with a doctor's order or when a patient self-refers to a facility that has been approved by MDH for colon screening. If a facility wishes to be approved for screening and is not, the information and forms are on the Screening page of our website at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/radiation/xray/screening.html.

Who can take x-rays?

We have a very helpful tool on our website for facilities wondering, who can take x-rays? The chart specifies who can take x-rays and who can do fluoro. It is available on our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/radiation/xray/faq.html.



***Do you have questions
we haven't answered
in past bulletins?***

Are there issues or topics we haven't talked about in our bulletins that you would like answers to? If so, please submit your question via email to Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us or fax at (651) 201-4606, and we'll do our best to include the answer in our future bulletins. Please include your name and facility name if you agree to let us use your name in the article. Thank you!

Signature _____



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

Airport X-rays

MDH has received a call of concern regarding the airport x-ray system “CastScope.” The CastScope is designed to take x-rays of casts and prosthetic limbs to insure that foreign objects are not being smuggled onto aircrafts. Facilities should make patients aware of the Transportation Security Administrations (TSA) use of this x-ray if they have patients with casts or prosthetic limbs. In discussing the matter with TSA, there are alternatives. Federal agencies are not regulated by MDH, so any concerns regarding TSA’s activities should be directed towards the TSA manager at the airport.

Limited Scope testing update

The ARRT sends MDH the testing statistics for Minnesota and national testers for the Limited Scope X-ray Operator exam. MN testers are passing the core at a rate well above the national rate (67% vs. 53 %.) The positioning modules are being passed at a comparable rate (47-56%.) It appears that the testers are having the most difficulties with the skull, spine and podiatry modules. It is important to not only know the positions, but be able to identify issues on the x-rays as well. For more information regarding x-ray operators and educational resources available for testers, visit our website at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/radiation/xray/xrayoperator.html.

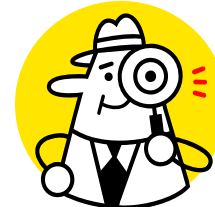
Service Provider registration renewals

Service Providers who registered last November have been asked to re-register with MDH and have received a renewal packet. If you are a service provider and did not receive a packet, be sure to give us a call.

All renewed service providers will receive a new registration card. Expired registration cards are not valid, and should not be accepted by facilities at time of service. If you are a facility and you see an expired registration card, please notify the service provider that they cannot work on your equipment and call MDH.

All facilities should ask for proof of MDH registration by asking to see their Service Providers’ registration card. For more information, visit our website at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/radiation/xray/serviceprovider.html.

Inspector’s Corner



Annual Audits

Under 4732.0505, Subpart B, an annual audit is to be completed by the facility. The one-year anniversary to rule 4732 is in November. The annual audit is like an annual physical for your radiation safety program. By doing an annual review of your quality assurance manual (policies, equipment performance, required testing etc.), it is hoped that problems are identified and corrected by the facility. In order to facilitate the audit, MDH has put together a sample audit, available on our website at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/radiation/xray/4732info/index.html, click on Annual Audit.

Digital Dental

There is a misconception that once a facility goes digital, they don’t have to worry about QC. It is important to check the quality control suggested by your manufacturer. These suggestions should be listed in your quality assurance manual as policy for your facility. For example, the Schick digital sensor has a daily and a weekly check, and a log of their being done must be kept. This is similar to the log an office would keep to check processor QC (temperature, crab tree etc.). Going digital simply means a different kind of QC, not the absence of QC. For more information on QC, visit our Quality Control webpage at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/radiation/xray/infofacilities.html.

Our website is a great resource!

- Radiation Safety Officer page
- X-ray Operator page
- Service Provider page
- Quality Control procedures
- Registration Forms
- Publications page

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 to Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us.

Thank you!

