



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving
the Health of All Minnesotans



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Fees Increased effective July 1, 2009

X-ray equipment fees have increased. For more information and to download updated registration forms, please visit our website. To review the full House Bill 1362, visit <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us>, click on Bills Search and Status, enter 1362.

X-ray Operator exam process

It is important to note that the Limited Scope X-ray Operator exam process can be a lengthy one. Once an application is received by MDH, it could take up to one week to process. The information is then forwarded to ARRT to process, which can take up to two weeks, as ARRT processes applications once a week. From the point an applicant sends in their application, to receiving a packet from ARRT, could be one month. The applicant then has 90 days to pass the exam. Once the exam is taken, MDH receives an exam score report from ARRT. MDH sends out applicant exam score letters within one week of receiving the ARRT report. Because MDH needs to coordinate with ARRT, applicants should be aware that this process can be time consuming and requires some patience.



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

Visit our website

Please visit our website for all your radiation control questions about Quality Control, Service Providers, X-ray Operators, 4732 rule links, Registration forms and more at www.health.state.mn.us/xray.

National Radiation Protection Professionals Week

The MDH joins with the Health Physics Society (HPS) and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) in recognizing radiation professionals November 8 - 14, 2009, as this week has been proclaimed National Radiation Protection Professionals Week. According to the HPS website, November 8 - 14 is intended to bring attention to the significant contribution radiation protection professionals make to the nation's health, energy, industry, and defense sectors. The first week of November has been chosen each year as National Radiation Protection Professionals Week in recognition of the discovery of x-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen on November 8, 1895. In 2005, the HPS joined the CRCPD in passing a resolution proclaiming the first week in November as a week to recognize radiation protection professionals. Thank you for all you do!

Limited Scope test scores

Minnesota continues to lead the national average on passing the Limited Scope X-ray Operator exam at the 70% and above rate. From July - September 2009, Minnesotans passed the core at 66% (vs. 58% nationally). The positioning modules were passed 53 - 65% (vs. 43 - 58% nationally).

Year to date, Minnesotans passed the core at 64% (vs. 58% nationally). The positioning modules were passed 44 - 58% (vs. 42 - 52% nationally).

ARRT and Limited Scope X-ray Operators (LMXO)

On September 21, officials from various states that offer the Limited Scope X-ray exam, met with the ARRT. The meeting was designed to discuss the ARRT process in developing its testing procedures.

A survey had been done prior to the meeting to gauge how the different states utilize the LMXO test. There were many differences between the states, and how they devised their scoring systems. It was agreed that the states would like ARRT to investigate the possibility of a nationwide scoring system. This would help with reciprocity issues among the states. For example, Minnesota requires a 70% passing rate for each section, while Wyoming requires 80%. The states gave feedback on the LMXO test to the ARRT. It was an informative meeting with good discussions. As developments occur, registrants will be notified.

To receive bulletins by email, please submit your request to Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us.

For past bulletins, visit our website at www.health.state.mn.us/xray, click on Publications.

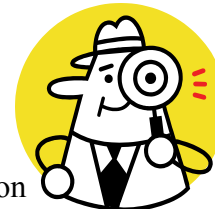


Bone Density Draft Rules

The Bone Density Advisory Group has been meeting to revise the bone density rules. It is important for anyone associated with bone density testing to review these and make comments. Comments will be taken until Nov. 15, 2009. The rule making process takes from 6-18 months. This is not the formal comment period that is required for the rule making process. Formal notice will be given according to state mandate, which will occur further in the rule making process. These draft rules should not be implemented by facilities unless Rule 4732 is adopted. A copy of the draft bone density rules can be found on our website at www.health.state.mn.us/xray, home page.

Comments should be sent to:
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Inspector's Corner



CT Alert

FDA has become aware of radiation overexposures during perfusion CT imaging to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of stroke.

Over an 18-month period, 206 patients at a particular facility received radiation doses that were approximately eight times the expected level. Instead of receiving the expected dose of 0.5 Gy (maximum) to the head, these patients received 3-4 Gy. In some cases, this excessive dose resulted in hair loss and erythema.

FDA encourages every facility performing CT imaging to review its CT protocols and be aware of the dose indices normally displayed on the control panel. These indices include the volume computed tomography dose index (CTDI in units of "milligray" or "mGy") and the dose-length product (DLP, in units of "milligray-centimeter" or "mGy-cm").

For each protocol selected, and before scanning the patient, carefully monitor the dose indices displayed on the control panel. To prevent accidental overexposure, make sure that the values displayed reasonably correspond to the doses normally associated with the protocol. Confirm this again after the patient has been scanned.

Confusion About Shielding Plans

In 4730.1600 (adopted in 1991), a medical facility needed to meet the shielding requirements of NCRP report number 49. With the new rule, 4732.0355-.0380 (adopted 2007), a shielding plan needs to be submitted to MDH for review, unless the equipment is exempted (ex: dental intra-oral, bone density, mammography, change to like equipment).

There is no "grandfathered in" period between 4730 and 4732. Shielding requirements began in 1991, so only facilities that were operating prior to that are "grandfathered in". This does not mean that the pre-1991 set-ups are safe, and inspectors will address shielding safety. If there is a change in ownership, the owner falls under whatever shielding requirements are in effect on the date of ownership change.