



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving  
the Life of All Minnesotans



**NOVEMBER 2008**

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## ***Email Address Change***

Effective November 2008, all State of Minnesota email addresses, including the Department of Health, will change to [firstname.lastname@state.mn.us](mailto: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.

## ***Interventional Procedures***

With more interventional procedures and their increasing complexities, it is important to remind interventional radiologists and cardiologists to take radiation safety measures to protect their health. Interventionalists should wear lead aprons, thyroid shields and either lead goggles or suspended ceiling lead shielding to protect the eyes. According to a British Journal of Radiology article from 1998, "microscopic abnormalities may be ophthalmologically detectable within four years of professional activity." If you have any questions about your occupational dose, contact your radiation safety officer or your radiation safety committee.



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)

## ***Inter-agency Payments***

We have gotten a number of calls from State of Minnesota agencies wanting to make an Inter-agency Payment for x-ray registration. In the past, a vendor number was used. According to our Finance Department, state agencies making a payment for x-ray equipment registration or for paying fines for an Administrative Penalty Order should be using a PV2, not a vendor number. If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call.

## ***National Radiation Protection Professionals Week***

The week of November 2-8, 2008 has been proclaimed as National Radiation Protection Professionals Week. MDH joins with the Health Physics Society (HPS) and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) in recognizing radiation professionals. According to the HPS website "This week 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 8 November 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. From all of us here at MDH, thank you for all you do!

Bulletins are sent electronically only. 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](mailto:Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us). You can visit our website at [www.health.state.mn.us/xray](http://www.health.state.mn.us/xray), click on Publications, to see our past Bulletins.



## ***Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Services***

This item came through the FDA's message center: Recently, Congress passed the [Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act \(MIPPA\) of 2008](#). Beginning January 1, 2012, MIPPA requires that "advanced diagnostic imaging services" (diagnostic magnetic resonance imaging, computed tomography, and nuclear medicine (including positron emission tomography)) be reimbursed only if performed by accredited facilities. To date, the Secretary has not approved any body to accredit facilities to perform advanced diagnostic imaging service. At this point, MDH does not know what criteria will be used or how it will fit with existing regulation. The purpose of publishing this information is to raise awareness of what is sure to be a hot topic.

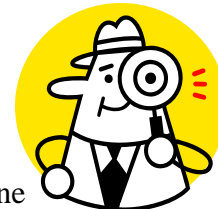
## ***MDH will participate in the NEXT Survey Program***

The Nationwide Evaluation of X-ray Trends (NEXT) program is a partnership between the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH), with financial support from the American College of Radiology (ACR), to characterize the radiation doses patients receive during diagnostic x-ray examinations.

The NEXT survey program selects a particular radiological examination for study and captures radiation exposure data from a nationally representative sample of U.S. clinical facilities. Volunteer state radiation control personnel conduct the surveys using reference phantoms, most of which are clinically validated to represent the radiation attenuation presented by an average-size patient. Surveys are repeated periodically to track trends as technology and clinical practices change.

**Minnesota is participating in the NEXT study involving cardiac cath labs.** For the sites that were randomly selected, an MDH inspector will be doing the required NEXT tests and reporting their results. Facilities are asked to cooperate. If you would like to see the results of previous NEXT studies, go to: <http://www.crcpd.org/NEXT.asp>

## ***Inspector's Corner***



### **Schick Digital Sensor**

MDH has received numerous phone calls inquiring about the Schick Sensor check. In talks with Schick, this is something that they do internally; it is not a required QC. If you would like to do the sensor check, the steps are below. Remember, they are optional. If you have QC requirements for your system, those are the ones that need to be followed:

1. Start the CDR program and create a new test patients series.
2. Connect the sensor and verify the box on the screen is flashing green (ready to acquire x-ray).
3. Place a radio-opaque object such as a coin or clip on the flat active side of the sensor.
4. Take several sample exposures at the same x-ray setting and verify image quality is uniform from image to image.
5. You are now ready to acquire images on a patient on Annual Audit.



## ***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](mailto: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