



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving
the Health of All Minnesotans



SEPTEMBER 2009

**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

Email: health.xray@state.mn.us

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.

Service Provider email list

We would like to increase the number of Service Providers on our bulletin email list, as we have many important articles that Service Providers would find interesting and useful. Please forward this bulletin to your Service Provider, or if you are a Service Provider, forward it to your employer. Send requests to be added to our bulletin email list to Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us. Thank you!

Bone Density/CAT Scan Rules

The Bone Density and CT Advisory groups have met, and draft rules are being developed. If you have any items that you would like to see addressed in rule or changes that you think should be made, please email them to health.xray@state.mn.us. Once the groups have completed their work on the rules, they will be posted on the x-ray webpage for informal comment. Once that is done, they will be sent to the Revisor's Office for the formal rule making process.

Late Fees

As part of the legislative fee increase, late registrations will be assessed a late fee of 25% of the total invoice. All facilities are given 30 days to send in registration fees before they are considered late. Registration packets will be mailed to facilities one month prior to due dates, as they have been in the past. Knowledge of your annual due date will help your facility avoid late fees. If you would like to know what your facilities renewal date is, please give us a call.

H1N1 Flu

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is in response mode to address the H1N1 flu. This affects everyone, especially MDH field staff and inspectors from the X-ray Unit. If an inspector exhibits flu-like symptoms, they will have to cancel any scheduled inspection to protect facility staff and patients. We understand that some facilities may be overwhelmed themselves with H1N1. If you absolutely need to reschedule an inspection because of H1N1, please call our main line, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. MDH is also looking at critical staffing and may need to redirect staff from one unit to another to ensure critical operations. Facilities should be aware of this provision in the event that x-ray staff are not able to answer phones or are in mandated training. Your patience is greatly appreciated!



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.

Image Gently's Step Lightly message

Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) is an active member of the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging. Their goal is to raise awareness of opportunities to lower radiation dose used in pediatric imaging exams and procedures through its informational Image Gently campaign (www.imagegently.org).

The Alliance has developed easily accessible online teaching materials and checklists to help Interventional radiology providers through its "Step Lightly" message. Interventional radiologists, medical physicists, and radiologic technologists are encouraged to visit the Image Gently website to review these important materials and factor the information into their clinical decision making.

New on the Image Gently website are:

- [Downloadable slide presentation](#) for use by providers to teach their staff methods to reduce dose and maintain quality
- [Downloadable checklist](#) of dose reduction steps the team can review for each patient
- [Downloadable outline](#) of dose reduction and quality maintenance steps to take
- [Patient brochure](#) including answers for parents about interventional radiology procedures. Providers can use this as a guide to communicate concerns and benefits of interventional procedures to patients.

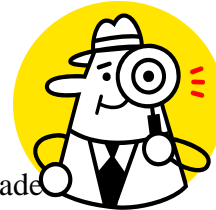
To receive bulletins by email, please submit your request to Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us. For past bulletins, visit our website at www.health.state.mn.us/xray, click on Publications.



Physician Assistant Supervisory Agreements

According to statutory regulation, changes made in the 2009 legislative session (147A.01, subdivision 17a), state that the PA-supervisory agreements "are kept on file at the address of record." As long as the PA has the agreement on site at the place that they work, it will not be required that they have it on site at facilities that they may send patients to for x-rays.

Inspector's Corner



ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable)

ALARA is an acronym that has made its way into Rule 4732. What is the ALARA Principle? According to the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP), volume 145: "Radiographic techniques for digital imaging *shall* be adjusted for the minimum patient dose required to produce a signal-to-noise ratio sufficient to provide image quality to meet the purpose of the examination." What this means is that facilities are to use the minimum exposure factor to get the desired image quality. It applies to all modes of radiographic imaging.

Dental Pan Alert

It has come to the attention of MDH that the Panoramic PC-1000 units made by Panoramic Corporation have a jackscrew assembly that is subject to friction that may, based on use, result in wear. If the unit makes any unusual noise, (grinding, squealing etc.), hesitates, or the column mechanism is sticking, DO NOT USE the machine until a service provider has fixed it. It may mean that there is a problem with the jackscrew assembly. A unit with a stripped out assembly in Wisconsin slipped down and came in contact with an employee. The company sent out letters Nov. 18, 2008 to facilities to advise them of the warning. Warning labels were also sent out and need to be placed on the unit. Failure to adhere to the company's warning could result in patient/operator injury. For questions and service, please call Panoramic Service Department at 1-800-654-2027.

Graduating X-ray Students

Students graduating from an approved ARRT program used to have a grace period in which they could take their boards and still do x-rays. This was because of the lag time that was in place for testing and getting results. Currently, ARRT offers the test daily through the Pearson test centers and results are normally received in less than a week; therefore, there is no longer a grace period. MN Rule 4732.0590 allows students to do x-rays in an approved program. MN Statute 144.121 subd. 5 (updated in 2007) requires that individuals pass a nationally recognized test in order to do x-rays. The ones exempted are already certified/registered.