



x-ray

bulletin



Your Input Is Valuable

Happy New Year to all registrants, service providers and x-ray operators! We heard from many of you, and understand the importance of the X-ray Bulletin. We've made some changes and improvements based on your suggestions.

Some changes you can expect from our new and improved X-ray Bulletin include:

- ◆ A bulletin emailed quarterly, rather than monthly
- ◆ A more comprehensive bulletin available online
- ◆ More in-depth articles, based on your requests and frequently asked questions
- ◆ A more visible presence in the radiation community, with postings on available educational opportunities

If you have questions that need to be answered or an article suggestion for an upcoming bulletin, please use the [Article Request form](#) available on our website at www.health.state.mn.us/xray, or contact us directly at 651.201.4545.

Thank you,
X-ray Unit Team

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Public Health in Minnesota... It Just Is

The year 2012 will be a year for re-tooling and shifting the focus of our x-ray inspections. This means that our inspectors will put more emphasis on process and quality improvement in the registrant's daily work or practice.

Our commitment to you is to provide guidance and information that will make inspections transparent and clearly defined. Our charge is to make that information timely and easily accessible. There are also plans to schedule registrant and service provider meetings in June of 2012, so you have the chance to speak with inspectors and administrative staff. Watch for announcements and opportunities to provide feedback to us in the coming months.

My note to you is that your work does have an impact on public health in Minnesota. Public Health in x-ray isn't a concept, it's a philosophy that impacts our way of doing business. It affects the quality of life of Minnesotans in general, and of each of us who live here. Keep that thought upper-most in your mind as you continue to receive information from MDH and apply it to your business or practice.

Remember, Public Health in Minnesota is what we all have come to expect...It just is.

Mary Navara supervises the X-Ray Unit Team at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Feel free to contact her by phone at 651.201.5826 or send a note by email to Mary.Navara@state.mn.us.

Information Notice 2011-02, October 2011

An Information Notice was mailed to all medical, dental, CT, and veterinary registrants and service providers regarding the necessary installation calibration tests performed following x-ray tube replacements. There can be significant changes in the dose output from replacement, so it is crucial that all calibration tests are performed prior to patient use. MDH encourages communication between registrants and service providers regarding the completeness of equipment testing following tube replacement to continue to ensure patient protection and an ALARA environment. MDH believes this communication will improve compliance with the regulations and minimize the likelihood of medical events. This Notice requires no specific action or written response.

RSOs FAQs

What to do for declared pregnant staff?

[Minnesota Rule 4732.0415](#) states, 'When a woman declares her pregnancy in writing, the registrant must ensure' that the dose to the fetus does not exceed 0.5 rem.

[Minnesota Rule 4732.0440](#) states, individual monitoring devices must be supplied to the employee if she is likely to receive during the entire pregnancy a dose of 0.1 rem.

There are options available. If your facility decides to monitor pregnant employees, two inexpensive options may be:

- ◆ USB-type badge
- ◆ Post a badge at an exposed location near the operator or other area of concern

Reporting Equipment Changes

If there are any changes to your radiation program, it is the facility's responsibility to report them utilizing the Change of Facility Information form. This form should be considered the starting point to report any changes, including:

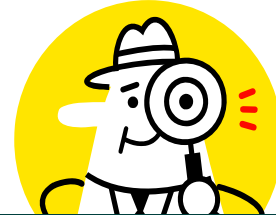
- ◆ X-ray equipment sales, disposal or storage
- ◆ Administrator or Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) updates
- ◆ Address updates
- ◆ Practices that have been sold
- ◆ Facility name and/or tax id number changes

Please visit the Registration Forms page of our website at www.health.state.mn.us/xray.

Dental Shielding Plans

Since 2008, dental facilities have been submitting shielding plans to MDH for Panoramic, Cephalometric, and CT units. Within these plans, it must be demonstrated that operators can control all entrances to the area while maintaining a distance of at least six feet from the patient and unit, otherwise, a barrier is used. The patient must also be visible to the operator during exposure.

Shielding plans for all facilities must ensure the dose to persons in surrounding areas is less than 100 mRem/year. All elements in [4732.0360](#) must be considered when submitting shielding plans. Please address shielding plan questions to Ben Sunderlin at 651.201.4528 or visit the Shielding page on our website at www.health.state.mn.us/xray.



Inspector's Corner

Q. "What do I do with records after an MDH inspection?"

A. The MDH x-ray inspection may only be one piece of a facility's regulatory and quality assurance puzzle.

It is not possible for MDH to describe the records that facilities may destroy. Agencies such as OSHA have retention schedules that may be more detailed and require facilities to keep records indefinitely. In other words, MDH has record retention requirements which may or may not mirror other agencies. The following are two examples of the MDH X-ray Unit's record retention requirements:

- ◆ MDH requires that training records must be maintained throughout the employment of the x-ray operator and until the first inspection after termination.
- ◆ Records of individual monitoring must be maintained for 30 years or the lifetime of the individual (ex: film badges)

Review [4732.0330](#), Subp. 4 to gain a clearer view of the records that must be maintained for MDH, and then check with the facility information officer or radiation safety officer for further guidance. The old adage of "When in doubt, throw it out" may not be the best answer. If you have questions or concerns, please give us a call at 651.201.4545.

Educational Opportunities

Hold the Date

June 2012 & January 2013

Service Provider & Registrant meetings

MDH Radiation Control, X-ray Unit

sponsored meetings throughout Minnesota

“I Know that Pattern -

Detecting Diagnostic Patterns in Your Patients”

January 14, 2012

Cleveland, Ohio

<http://www.cdiseminars.com/schedule.htm>

The 4th Annual ACR Executive Leadership Series

Leadership Strategies for Radiology 2012:

Taking Your Practice to the Next Level

February 12 - February 17, 2012

Vail, Colorado

[http://www.edusymp.com/Meetingview.asp?](http://www.edusymp.com/Meetingview.asp?ProductID=4716)

[ProductID=4716](http://www.edusymp.com/Meetingview.asp?ProductID=4716)

Consider donating your x-ray equipment

If your x-ray equipment is no longer of use to you, please consider donating it to one of the nonprofit organizations below.

Project C.U.R.E.

<http://www.projectcure.org/give-supplies/supplies-needed>

AmeriCares

<http://www.americares.org/howtohelp/corporations/>

Medical Bridges

<http://www.medicalbridges.org/?q=donate>

Global Health Ministries

<http://www.ghm.org/index.php/get-involved/6/13-supplies-needed>

Samaritan's Purse

http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/WMM/Donating_Materials/

Hope For the City

<http://www.hopeforthecity.net/>

**This list does not include all organizations that accept donations of x-ray equipment, nor does it constitute an endorsement or recommendation of any individual organization by MDH.*



www.health.state.mn.us/xray