



Minnesota Department of Health
X-ray Unit
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**Information Notice 2003-01 and 2007-05
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PRECISION TESTING PROTOCOL

In the past, registrants have contacted the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) concerning the precision testing protocol for bone density equipment. This procedure requires that a technologist image an individual several times in a period of minutes or hours. The procedure is designed as a quality assurance check and may be of no benefit to the individual.

Requests for variances from the requirement to have a written order for the procedure have been received. The rules state that a radiographic procedure must be ordered by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts; must include the clinical indications for the examination; and must be available to the procedure personnel at the time of the examination.

In addition, Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4732.0305 item C, clearly prohibits exposing an individual to the useful beam except for healing arts purposes. A licensed practitioner of the healing arts must authorize the exposure. Further, the exposure of an individual for training, instruction, demonstration, or research (except when research has been approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) and contracted under Federal regulations) is prohibited.

The Radiation Control Unit of MDH cannot support the precision testing protocol. Although a bone density dose may be relatively small, as previously stated, the exposure is of no benefit to the individual being used for quality assurance. As such, it could pose an unnecessary risk.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the Radiation Control Unit at (651) 201-4545.