

OREGON BOARD OF MEDICAL IMAGING

TEMPORARY RULE FOR CT WAIVER

Approved by the OBMI on 10-17-14

KEY: Deleted language identified by ~~strike-through~~.
New language is underlined.

337-010-0011

Qualifications of Computed Tomography Equipment Operators and Merged Technology Equipment Operators' Licensing

(1) Through December 31, 2016, an individual who operates computed tomography equipment for diagnosis must be credentialed by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists in Computed Tomography (CT) or in Radiography with training in the operation of CT equipment in accordance with applicable RPS rules; currently OAR 333-106-0370 (x-ray) and 333-116-0880 (NM).

(2) Through December 31, 2016, in addition to qualifications to operate radiation therapy devices, Radiation Therapists operating CT for treatment planning must submit evidence of completion of a minimum of twelve (12) hours training in the use of computed tomography from an approved source as determined by the board.

(3) Through December 31, 2016, Nuclear Medicine Technologists who perform non-diagnostic attenuation CT exams with a hybrid scanner such as PET/CT, SPECT/CT or new emerging hybrid scanners must meet the training requirements in accordance with OAR 333-116-0880.

(4) Through December 31, 2016, in addition to qualifications to operate radionuclide imaging devices, Nuclear Medicine technologists may be granted a CT Technologist operator's license to perform diagnostic CT examinations if the following requirements are met:

(a) Credentialing by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists in Computed Tomography, or

(b) The Board may grant authorization to allow Nuclear Medicine Technologists who are enrolled in a CT training program to perform diagnostic CT exams with direct supervision after they have completed a Board approved didactic training program that will allow the student to perform the ARRT required number of CT exams to sit for the ARRT (CT) exam. The authorization will be effective for 3 consecutive academic terms, and will expire automatically unless the Board is presented with evidence of passing the ARRT (CT) exam.

(5) Diagnostic Computed Tomography: On or after January 1, 2017, a licensee who operates computed tomography (CT) equipment, including cone beam CT, for diagnosis must be credentialed in Computed Tomography (CT) by either the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board or have an active temporary CT license issued by OBMI.

(6) Computed Tomography/Nuclear Medicine Hybrid Imaging: On or after January 1, 2017, a positron Emission-Computed Tomography (PET/CT) or Single Photon Emission-Computed Tomography (SPECT/CT) systems must be operated by technologists licensed by the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging.

(a) On or after January 1, 2017, a registered radiographer with the credential R.T. (R), or a registered radiation therapist with the credential R.T.(T) may only operate CT for attenuation, not for diagnostic

purposes. They may operate the diagnostic portion of the CT hybrid imager if they hold a CT credential from ARRT, or have an active temporary CT license issued by OBMI.

(b) On or after January 1, 2017, registered certified nuclear medicine technologists with the active credentials R.T. (N) or CNMT (NMTCB) may operate SPECT and PET with non-diagnostic CT and the attenuation correction portion of the hybrid imager. Certified Nuclear Medicine technologists may operate the diagnostic portion of the CT scanner if they hold a CT credential or have an active temporary CT license issued by OBMI.

(7) Computed Tomography for Radiation Therapy Treatment Planning Purposes: On or after January 1, 2017, a licensee who operates CT equipment for radiation therapy treatment planning purposes must be credentialed in Radiation Therapy or CT by the ARRT.

(8) On a case-by-case basis, the board may waive a credential requirement of this rule for a licensed technologist, based upon the board's determination that the following two conditions are met:

1. The licensee seeking a waiver:
 - a. has substantial experience, as determined by the board, practicing computed tomography; and
 - b. seeks to perform computed tomography as an employee or contractor of a specified rural hospital, as defined in ORS 442.470; and
 - c. under state sponsorship, passes a computed tomography examination by a registry recognized by the board; and
 - d. must have completed and documented vendor-provided applications training specific to any CT machine the waiver applicant will work on; and
 - e. must have completed a minimum of 16 hours in structured CT education requirements within the 24 months prior to applying for the waiver.
 - f. meets clinical experience requirements as specified in the waiver.
 - g. must have completed five supervised diagnostic-quality repetitions of any anatomic area that the waiver recipient will image with computed tomography. The waiver will only cover images of anatomic areas for which the waiver recipient has met this requirement. Supervision must be provided by a licensed technologist with a CT registry credential recognized by the board.
2. Failure to grant the waiver would result in a substantial shortage in the rural hospital's ability to deliver necessary health services to the community.

The board may prescribe terms of the waiver, including but not limited to time duration of the waiver, supervisory requirements, and clinical experience requirements. The waiver may include deadlines for completing specified requirements included in the waiver. The board may grant a preliminary waiver conditioned upon the waiver applicant's completion of all board-specified waiver requirements within no more than 60 days from the time the applicant submits an initial waiver request to the Board.