



September 2012

**BOARD OF MEDICAL IMAGING**

**\*\*\* UPDATE \*\*\***

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***BOARD NEWS...***

**NEXT BOARD MEETING RE-SCHEDULED TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23**

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Medical Imaging, initially scheduled for Friday, October 5, has been moved to Tuesday, October 23 and will be convened in Room 445 of the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland. The meeting agenda will be posted on the OBMI website ([www.oregon.gov/obmi](http://www.oregon.gov/obmi)) two weeks prior to the meeting.

**OBMI PROPOSES STATE LEGISLATION TO OUTLAW “KEEPSAKE” FETAL PHOTOS IN OREGON**

The Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) is proposing state legislation for 2013 to outlaw any imaging procedure that uses ionizing or nonionizing radiation on a person unless the procedure is 1) ordered by a licensed health provider acting within their scope of practice; and 2) for a medical or diagnostic purpose.

This proposal was triggered by recent reports of several commercial “keepsake” fetal photo studios opening in Oregon. The FDA warns that the health effects of ultrasound on fetal tissue are not fully understood, and that ultrasound should only be used if required for legitimate medical purposes. Other groups such as the American Institute of Ultrasound Medicine express similar reservations. Moreover, the OBMI is concerned that some parents who purchase a keepsake ultrasound from an untrained person might make the unfortunate and potentially dangerous decision to forego a proper diagnostic ultrasound from a licensed sonographer.

While the keepsake photo problem is specifically related to sonography, this legislation applies to *all* forms of medical imaging regulated by the OBMI<sup>1</sup>, addressing the OBMI’s broader public health concern that medical imaging is an invasive technology that presents certain known and potential risks for humans and should only be performed when deemed medically appropriate. Screening mammograms would be exempted from the requirements of this legislation, since these procedures do not require a doctor’s referral under current accepted medical practice. This legislation would give the OBMI the authority to allow nonmedical imaging for research and education purposes.

**OBMI WITHDRAWS LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE LICENSURE OF SUBSPECIALTIES**

After consultation with the Governor’s office, the OBMI withdrew a 2013 legislative concept that would have required, by 2014, all sonographers to have minimally passed at least one registry examination in each of any broad categories in which they practice. Going forward, the Board expects to engage stakeholders in discussions regarding ways to achieve the Board’s goal of appropriate education and training for technologists who are employed in diverse areas of practice. (Withdrawal of the legislative concept does not change the requirement in current law that all licensed medical imaging technologists will need a national credential in 2014.)

**NEW BONE DENSITOMETRY PROGRAM – OCTOBER 9 AND 10**

The Board has received a number of inquiries from persons interested in obtaining a limited permit in bone densitometry. Oregon State University will be offering a program in Portland on October 9 and 10. Contact information for the OSU program and other limited school programs is on our website at:

[http://www.oregon.gov/OBMI/pages/oregon\\_medical\\_imaging\\_initial\\_education\\_links.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/OBMI/pages/oregon_medical_imaging_initial_education_links.aspx).

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<sup>1</sup> Medical imaging procedures are defined by statute to include radiography, MRI, sonography, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy. ORS 688.405(16).

### **BOARD VOTES TO WITHHOLD RELEASE OF LICENSEES' HOME CONTACT INFORMATION**

Under current state open records law, OBMI licensees' *work* addresses and *work* contact information are public information and must be released upon request. At the same time, state health regulatory boards have the discretion to withhold *home* contact information from release, unless the home contact information is for a "public health or state health planning purpose..." To protect the contact information of licensees as much as possible, in July the Board voted to withhold as much as the law will allow. Under new Board policy, OBMI licensees' *home* contact information will be withheld from release, except when requested for a public health or state health planning purpose.

### **BOARD HIRES INVESTIGATOR AS A SHARED POSITION WITH RPS**

The OBMI is pleased to announce completion of an interagency agreement with Oregon Radiation Protection Services (RPS) to employ Catherine Hess as the Board's part-time investigator, a position that was authorized by the Governor and Legislature for the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium. Catherine previously practiced in Oregon as a radiographer and radiation therapist and will continue to be employed part-time as an environmental health specialist with RPS.

### **EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE OBMI WEBSITE**

The State of Oregon is updating state websites—including OBMI's—to a "SharePoint" website system. The transition has caused some delays and glitches in service, which hopefully will be smoothed out soon. The new system should eventually be more flexible and allow the Board to make the website more useful to licensees and customers. We recently updated and reorganized our consumer links to include recognized national registries and organizations that offer medical imaging practice standards, and a page with summaries of average examination results from the limited x-ray schools, to help consumers compare among the schools.

### **NATIONAL CREDENTIAL REQUIRED FOR LICENSURE BEGINNING IN 2014**

After January 1, 2014, current state law specifies that any person subject to regulation (with exceptions<sup>2</sup>) by OBMI will be required to have a credential from a Board-recognized national credentialing organization in order to have a license issued or renewed. To implement this law with regard to current provisional licenses, the Board does not intend to revoke or cancel anyone's license on January 1, 2014 but, without a national credential, the law will not allow us to renew a license whenever the next renewal date comes around.

Some Provisional Licenses Set to Expire on December 31, 2013: The Board currently issues provisional licenses to technologists who already have a full license in one modality and who are working toward a credential in a different imaging modality. At the April 20, 2012 Board meeting, the Board voted to place a December 31, 2013 expiration date on all provisional licenses issued after the April 20 Board meeting. The effective result is two tiers of provisional licenses: 1) provisional licenses issued from January 2012 through April 20, 2012, which were issued for the full two-year licensure cycle and which will have an expiration date sometime in 2014 *that we will honor*; and 2) provisional licenses issued after the April board meeting, which are set to expire on December 31, 2013. (Beginning January 1, 2014, when the national credentialing requirement goes into effect, no new provisional licenses will be issued.)

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<sup>2</sup> The national credentialing requirement will not apply to 1) limited X-ray machine operators; 2) grandfathered or state-sponsored radiographers; and 3) Persons who were initially licensed through reciprocity with another state.

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# ***ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES...***

## **APPLY TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF MEDICAL IMAGING!**

Currently there are several vacancies that need to be filled and we are always on the lookout for responsible and committed individuals to serve on the Board. State law specifies that the Board consists of 12 members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, including four physicians, five medical imaging licensees, including one each from the five medical imaging licensure categories, and three members of the public who do not have a license from the board. If you are interested, please check out the Governor's executive appointments website at <http://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/boards.aspx> and submit your application. Please call the office if you have any questions or want to know more about what is involved with Board membership.

## **UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES**

The OBMI meets quarterly. Meetings typically start at 8:30 and are concluded by 4:30 pm. All portions of board meetings are open to the public except for licensure disciplinary actions which are held in executive session in accordance with Oregon law. Board meeting preliminary agendas are typically posted on the OBMI website several weeks prior to each meeting. Upcoming scheduled meeting dates are:

- Tuesday, October 23, 2012
- Friday, January 4, 2013
- Friday, April 5, 2013
- Thursday, July 11 (Board retreat)
- Friday, July 12, 2013
- Friday, October 11, 2013

## **MAKE SURE YOU RENEW ON TIME – AVOID LATE FEE AND BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTION!**

As a courtesy, the Board of Medical Imaging sends out advance renewal notices through regular mail. But it is the sole responsibility of each license or permit holder to renew on time. Be aware of your renewal date and renew ahead of time to avoid the \$25 late fee! Moreover, *practicing for any period of time with an expired license is a licensure violation subject to Board disciplinary action which may include a civil penalty.* Licensees can renew online through our website at [www.oregon.gov/obmi](http://www.oregon.gov/obmi). (Limited permit holders must mail or deliver their renewal along with proof of required continuing education.)

## **KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UPDATED WITH US**

Please keep us updated on your home and work addresses and contact information. There is a link to an "updated information form" on our website ([www.oregon.gov/obmi](http://www.oregon.gov/obmi)), under "Important Notices."

## **OFFICE CLOSED DURING THESE REMAINING DATES IN 2012**

### State Government Furlough Days

Due to state budget reductions, the OBMI office will be closed on the following 2012 dates:

Friday, October 29  
Friday, November 23

### State Holidays

Veterans Day-- Monday, Nov. 12  
Thanksgiving-- Thursday, Nov. 22  
Christmas Day- Tuesday, Dec. 25  
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**CONTACT US:** Main number is 971-673-0215 or email to [OBMI.Info@state.or.us](mailto:OBMI.Info@state.or.us). Our mailing address is:

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