



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Board of Medical Imaging

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BOARD OF MEDICAL IMAGING

*** * * SEPTEMBER 2016 UPDATE * * ***

BEGINNING IN 2017, MUST HAVE (CT) CREDENTIAL TO DO COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

Administrative Rules of the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) will require licensed technologists to have earned a computed tomography (CT) subspecialty credential, either through the ARRT or the NMTCB, in order to perform diagnostic computed tomography on or after January 1, 2017. After that date, the new rule will require a CT credential for all licensed imaging technologists who practice *diagnostic* CT, including cone beam CT.

Technologists without a CT credential will be eligible to practice diagnostic CT only after obtaining a temporary CT license, which will be available for up to 12 months and which will require them to practice under supervision. The temporary license will enable CT candidates to complete supervised clinical prerequisites necessary to sit for a CT credentialing examination. This new subspecialty credential requirement will only apply to *diagnostic* CT and will not apply to:

- Radiographers or radiation therapists operating the CT attenuation correction portion of the hybrid imager; or
- Licensed nuclear medicine technologists operating PET and attenuation correction portion of the hybrid imager.

There is a provision in rule that will allow the Board to waive the CT credential requirement, on a case-by-case basis, for CT-experienced technologists in state-designated rural hospitals who are not able to obtain the CT registry credential but who are able to pass a CT registry examination under state sponsorship.

FOUR DOLLAR RENEWAL SURCHARGE TO PAY FOR HEALTH WORKFORCE DATABASE

State legislation enacted in 2015 requires all health licensing boards (including OBMI) to collect health workforce data from renewal applicants, and to forward the data to the Oregon Health Authority. This will require renewal applicants to complete a questionnaire every time they renew a license or permit. The Oregon Health Authority will charge each licensing board \$2 per year (or \$4 per two-year renewal cycle) for each renewal. In turn, the OBMI adopted a rule to add the \$4 workforce data surcharge as part of the renewal application.

BOARD SPONSORS FOUR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2017 SESSION IN SALEM

The Board of Medical Imaging has submitted several requests for state legislation to be considered during the 2017 legislative session in Salem. Those requests first go to the Governor's office and, if approved, to the Legislature to be drafted and introduced in early 2017. The requests include:

1. Prohibit most non-sonographers from performing *diagnostic* medical sonography: OBMI's current statute includes a licensure exemption for "specified licensed health care providers... who use sonographic equipment within their lawful scope of practice." The OBMI believes that too many untrained health providers make use of this exemption. In response, OBMI is proposing to narrow this exemption to say that only licensed nurse midwives and certain emergency medical service providers may perform diagnostic sonography within their scope of practice. This legislation also clarifies that OBMI's licensure law only applies to operation of technology for the purpose of creating images for *diagnosis* of medical conditions, not imaging done for real-time visual guidance employed in various medical procedures. (None of this has any impact on licensed physicians, who continue to have a full exemption from OBMI's statute.)
2. Allow the Board to classify certain minor violations as "non-disciplinary": Under current law, any civil penalty issued by the board is a disciplinary action which creates a permanent disciplinary record that is publicly available on the board's website, reported to the licensee's national registry, and filed with the National Practitioner Data Bank. Board members are proposing a change in the statute that would enable them to

classify certain types of license violations as non-disciplinary violations, but only if the civil penalty is no more than \$100, and only for specified violations that do not create a risk of harm to the public.

3. **Recognize ISCD's Bone Densitometry Credential:** Currently the OBMI can only issue a limited permit to practice bone densitometry to persons who complete an approved educational course and pass a national exam offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). But the educational course is rarely offered, creating a de facto barrier for those seeking to earn a permit. In response, the OBMI is proposing legislation that would allow for issuance of a limited bone densitometry permit to a person credentialed by the International Society of Clinical Densitometry (ISCD).
4. **Exempt Ophthalmic Sonography from Licensure:** The OBMI recently became aware that there is a very small group of sonographers that work only in ophthalmology, who are not currently licensed by OBMI and who are credentialed nationally by an organization that is not part of OBMI's network. Because of the small number and narrow focus of ophthalmic sonographers, the Board is sponsoring legislation to exempt them from OBMI's licensure requirement.

BOARD RECOGNIZES NEW "ACS" and "MSKS" Credential

The Board voted to to recognize several new credentials that have been recently added by two national registries. Those credentials include the Advanced Cardiac Sonography (ACS) credential now offered by Cardiac Credentialing International (CCI), and the registered musculoskeletal sonographer (MSKS) credential recently offered by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF MEDICAL IMAGING!

Under state law, the OBMI voting membership includes 12 members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, including four physicians; five licensed technologists; and three "public members" who are neither physicians nor licensees. Currently there are several public member vacancies that need to be filled and we are always on the lookout for responsible and committed individuals to serve on the Board. The Board and the State of Oregon welcome all applications and are fully committed to equal opportunity and diversity in Board membership. If you think you might be interested in any of the Board positions, please check out the Governor's executive appointments website at http://www.oregon.gov/gov/admin/Pages/How_To_Apply.aspx and submit your application. Please call Ed Conlow, OBMI Executive Director, at 971-673-0216, if you have any questions or want to know more about what is involved with Board membership.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

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Our mailing address is:

Oregon Board of Medical Imaging

800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 1160A, Portland, OR 97232

Our Website: www.oregon.gov/obmi

Meeting Dates:

October 21, 2016

January 20, 2017

April 21, 2017

July 21, 2017

October 20, 2017