

Informational Bulletin 2025-01

February 4, 2025

To: DEXA Scanner Facilities and Operators

From: David M. Howe, Program Director, Radiation Protection Services



Subject: Use of DEXA (Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry) Machines

The Public Health Division, Radiation Protection Services (RPS) is issuing this regulatory informational bulletin to clarify about the use and operation of DEXA scan machines in the state of Oregon.

Radiation Protection Services has regulations relating to the operation of the machine, when the machine can be used, who determines when a patient can be exposed to x-rays (no patient/client self-referrals are allowed), who is required to interpret the images and reports, and who is qualified to operate the machine.

[NOTE: Per Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR), all DEXA scanner machines must be registered with RPS before use].

OAR 333-106-0035, General Requirements: Deliberate Exposures

Restricted, requires that no persons shall be exposed to the useful beam, except for healing art purposes, until the patient has been evaluated by an authorized practitioner licensed to practice the healing arts (i.e. Medical Doctors, Osteopaths, Chiropractors, Naturopathic Doctors, and Podiatrists *), a medical need for X-rays is determined, and any useful diagnostic information obtained from each exposure shall be reviewed by a practitioner of the healing arts.

OAR 333-106-0055 General Requirements: X-Ray Operator Training,

requires that operators shall be adequately trained in radiation safety and be a diagnostic medical X-ray operator who meets one of the following:

- Holds a current license from Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI).
- Holds a current limited X-ray machine operator permit from OBMI.
- Is a student in an approved school (ORS 688.405) while practicing under the direct supervision of a radiologist (licensed with Oregon Medical Board) or a radiologic technologist (licensed with OBMI).
- Is a student in an OBMI approved limited permit program under a radiographic technologist (licensed with OBMI).

Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) also has additional rules governing the use and operation of DEXA scan machines. They can be contacted at info@obmi.or.gov.

Any violation of the above regulations may result in significant civil penalties for both the facility and/or operator.

If you have any questions, please contact Brent Herring, Radiation Protection Services, at 503-891-0098 or email: Brent.E.Herring@oha.oregon.gov.

* Nurse Practitioners and Physician Associates