Indiana State Department of Health
Health Care Regulatory Services
Medical Radiology Services Program

Program Advisory
Cardiac Catheterization Radiography Certification

ISDH HCRS Program Advisory Letter
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Purpose

The purpose of this program advisory letter is to inform students in educational programs and those with appropriate training and experience about who must be certified as a cardiac catheterization radiographer and the procedures for obtaining a cardiac catheterization certification pursuant to 410 Indiana Administrative Code [IAC] 5.2.

Background Information

On September 20, 2006, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Executive Board adopted a revision to radiology licensing rules. The rule promulgation process was subsequently completed and the final rule became effective December 27, 2006. The final rule is codified at 410 Indiana Administrative Code [IAC] 5.2 and has been published in the Indiana Register.

The original radiology licensing rule was adopted in 1983. The original rule did not include a certification category for cardiac catheterization. The expectation and practice was that a radiologic technologist performed the radiographic portion of the procedure. Over the years equipment was redesigned and automated such that more of the radiographic functions were placed under the direct control of the physician performing the cardiac catheterization procedure. Many of the cardiac catheterization facilities added nursing staff to direct the nursing and medication administration portions of the procedure and eliminated the staffing of radiologic technologists for these procedures. The ISDH opposed that practice because nursing staff was not trained in radiation protection and principles. This left no staff in the room with specific training in radiation protection and principles. A few health care facilities subsequently developed training programs for cardiac catheterization nursing staff to address radiation protection and principle issues. The ISDH subsequently agreed that individuals who completed the training could perform radiographic-related functions as long as that individual

was not actuating the radiation exposure. The new radiology licensing rule essentially adopts the system that evolved over the years.

Under the provisions of the new radiology licensing rule, individuals performing certain cardiac catheterization procedures must be certified. This is the first time that these individuals have been required to be certified. The certificate is issued by the ISDH. The ISDH has set July 1, 2007 as the deadline for obtaining a certificate. As of July 1, 2007, any individual performing a cardiac catheterization procedure must be certified prior to performing a procedure.

Who must be certified as a Cardiac Catheterization Radiographer

The purpose of the cardiac catheterization radiology certification category is to ensure that individuals responsible for the care of the patient and participating in the radiographic portion of the cardiac catheterization have adequate training in radiation protection and principles. The category of cardiac catheterization radiographer was created to address certain functions performed during a cardiac catheterization procedure that were previously handled by a radiologic technologist. The certification is linked to a specific medical procedure – cardiac catheterization. Individuals with this certification may not perform the functions for which they are certified during any other radiographic procedure.

An individual licensed by the ISDH as a radiologic technologist is not required to also be certified as a cardiac catheterization radiographer. Those functions are included within the radiologic technologist license.

To obtain a certification in cardiac catheterization radiography, the individual must first be licensed in a health care profession under IC 25 (i.e. nursing). Cardiac catheterization radiography certification is required for individuals manipulating the radiographic equipment and directly assisting with radiographic portion of the procedure. The staff performing the functions listed below must be certified as a cardiac catheterization radiographer. Facility staff present in the room but not performing any of these radiographic functions do not have to be certified as a cardiac catheterization radiographer.

An individual who performs any of the following functions during a cardiac catheterization procedure must be certified as a cardiac catheterization radiographer:

1. Assist with anatomic or physiologic interventional studies, both diagnostic and therapeutic, in which the heart or coronary arteries are entered via a systemic vein or artery using a catheter that is manipulated under fluoroscopic visualization. The assistance must be upon verbal direction of a supervising physician performing the procedure or a radiologic technologist licensed by the ISDH who is physically present during the procedure.
2. Initially set the correct machine parameters and position the patient and x-ray tube according to procedure protocols established by the facility or supervising physician.

3. Make changes from the initial protocol only upon verbal direction of the supervising physician performing the procedure or a radiologic technologist present in the room during the procedure.
4. Reset the fluoroscopic timer after the audible signal has sounded.
5. Develop radiographic images.
6. Print radiographic images.
7. Assure adequate radiation protection to the patient and individuals in the procedure room.

A certified cardiac catheterization radiographer may not:

1. Actuate a radiation machine resulting in the production of ionizing radiation.
2. Perform any radiation-related tasks independently other than those listed above.
3. Perform a radiographic function in any other procedure than a cardiac catheterization.

To perform the last three activities, an individual must be a licensed physician or licensed as a radiologic technologist or the appropriate limited radiography category.

Application and Approval Procedure for Cardiac Catheterization Certification

The following are the steps for obtaining a cardiac catheterization certificate:

1. Be licensed in a health care profession under IC 25, licensed under 410 IAC 5.2, or be approved by the ISDH.

2. Complete a cardiac catheterization training program approved by the department.

3. Pass the exam associated with the cardiac catheterization training program.

4. Be certified by a licensed practitioner or licensed radiologic technologist as proficient in cardiac catheterization radiography consistent with the scope of practice in the rule [410 IAC 5.2-15-2].

5. Submit an *Application for a Radiology License or Permit* [State Form 27068] to the ISDH. There is a $60 fee that must accompany the *Application*. A supply of application forms will be provided to ISDH-approved educational programs. The *Application* may be downloaded from the forms link found on the ISDH Web homepage (http://www.in.gov/isdh) or from the ISDH Medical Radiology Services Program homepage at www.in.gov/isdh/regsvcs/radhealth/welcome.htm. An application may also be requested by sending an email to radiology@isdh.in.gov or by calling 317-233-7565.

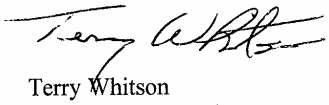
   [Note on Online Applications: At the present time, applications are submitted via a hard-copy of the application form. The ability to submit applications online is not

available as of March 2007. The ISDH is developing an online application that will allow individuals to submit an application online.]

6. The ISDH will process the *Application*. Once the *Application* is approved, the applicant will receive the certificate in the mail. Verification of certification status may be found online via the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency's *My License* system. The *My License* system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at https://extranet.in.gov/WebLookup/Search.aspx.

Questions about this program advisory letter may be addressed to Burton Garten, 317-233-7948, email bgarten@isdh.in.gov or Mary Stiker, Medical Radiology Services Program Director, phone 317-233-7563, mstiker@isdh.in.gov.

Approved by,



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