Medical Director for Nuclear Medicine

Purpose:

To define the duties and responsibilities of the medical director for the Nuclear Medicine section of Radiology.

Overview:

The American College of Radiology (ACR) provides practice guidelines for the performance of nuclear medicine examinations and handling of radiopharmaceuticals. The Nuclear Medicine section of Radiology will strive to use and implement these guidelines whenever possible.

Job Description:

Qualifications: The medical director of the section shall be a licensed physician with appropriate credentialing to oversee the diagnostic and therapeutic procedures performed in Nuclear Medicine. The training and knowledge recommended by the ACR include:

- As a minimum the medical director should have completed a formal Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) approved general nuclear medicine program or an American Osteopathic Association (AOA) approved program that must include training in radiation physics, instrumentation, radiochemistry, radiopharmacology, radiation dosimetry, radiation biology, radiation safety and protection, and quality control. In addition, clinical training in general nuclear medicine is required which must cover technical performance, calculation of administered activity, evaluation of images, correlation with other diagnostic modalities, interpretation, and formal reporting.

- Documented regular participation in continuing medical education (CME) specifically related to diagnostic procedures using radiopharmaceuticals, in accordance with the ACR Practice Guideline for Continuing Medical Education

- Approval by the LSUHSC – S Radiation Safety Committee to be placed on the facility’s Radioactive Material License. After committee approval, the physician must be approved by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and listed as an authorized user on the radioactive materials license.
Maintenance of Competence: The medical director should demonstrate evidence of continuing competence in the interpretation and reporting of those examinations. A minimum of 200 examinations per year is recommended in order to maintain skills. In addition, the physician shall maintain continuing education and will strive to be complaint with the ACR guidelines on continuing education.

Selection:

The section Medical Director shall be appointed by the Chair of the Department of Radiology.

Responsibilities:

The medical director is responsible for providing the clinical expertise and leadership to ensure that quality care is provided in accordance with hospital polices, JCAHO guidelines and other appropriate standards. The medical director shall strive to ensure appropriate utilization of services, quality of procedures, and all aspects of patient and facility safety and compliance with applicable government and institutional regulations regarding the use of radiopharmaceuticals. The medical director shall work closely with the Section Manager and Administrative Director of Radiology in fulfilling the duties listed below

- Provision of Care
  - Defines the scope of services for the section
  - Ensures that the care provided adheres to hospital policy and other appropriate guidelines
  - Reviews and approves clinical policy and procedure manual when changes are implemented or as requested. Review must be completed with approval or submission of changes within 2 weeks.

- Implementation of Practice Guidelines
  - Defines the case specific protocols that will be used
  - Develops new protocols for changes in practice or introduction of new procedures

- Patient Scheduling
  - Defines the procedures by which procedures are to be scheduled
- Resolves scheduling conflicts by serving as the contact person to assist physicians in prioritizing cases

☐ Resident Supervision

- Provides ongoing assessment of care provided by the residents

☐ Utilization Review

- Reviews cases scheduled as emergent to ensure that hospital resources are used effectively and efficiently

☐ Quality Assurance

- Reviews cases to ensure that clinical practice protocols are followed or exceptions are noted in the case record
- Responds to clinical variances within the timeframe set by hospital policy
- Responds to patient complaints involving physicians or residents within the timeframe set by hospital policy

☐ Physician Support

- Serves as the physician contact for Nuclear Medicine
- Defines who will serve in the medical director’s absence
- Ensures that case reports are completed within 48 hours
- Ensures that physician billing is performed in compliance with policy and resolves any billing conflicts or discrepancies.

Written: July 2008
Revised: December 2012
Updated: October 2013