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Technologists' Qualification Requirements, Orientation and Restrictions

Purpose: To define the requirements for a radiologic technologist to work in the breast imaging section including mandatory orientation and education

Polity: Technologists who perform mammographic x-rays must meet the qualifications defined in Section 900.12(a) (2) of the Mammography Quality Standards. They shall submit appropriate documentation to the section manager.

The following documents shall be maintained in the Diagnostic Imaging department:


1. State License
2. ARRT Mammography Certificate
3. Formal training in mammography
4. Initial experience
5. Continuing experience
6. Continuing education certificates

Technologists who fail to maintain current continuing education or experience must reestablish qualifications prior to performing mammography independently as defined in 900.12 (a)(2)(iv)(B) of the Mammography Quality Standards.

Mammography Technologists' Orientation

Technologists who perform mammographic examinations and quality control tests shall be competent with the Breast Imaging department's policies and procedures and will be trained to operate mammography equipment in a safe and effective manner.

- A. All technologists who perform mammographic examinations are required to read the Mammography Policies and Procedures manual before performing mammograms
- B. Technologists are required to have a thorough understanding of radiation safety procedures, the hazards of overexposure to radiation, electrical safety, fire safety, and environmental safety as described in the manuals of the Breast Imaging department.
- C. Prior to the use of mammographic x-ray equipment, technologists shall be trained in its proper use by a qualified technologist. If a qualified technologist is not available, the lead interpreting physician will ensure that the technologist is trained by the equipment manufacturer's applications specialist. If a newly hired technologist has previous experience performing mammography on the department's equipment, the senior technologist will observe the technologist's performance before she performs

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a mammogram independently. All competencies will be approved and maintained by the radiology department education coordinator.


- D. Prior to performing mammographic examinations independently using a new mammographic modality, technologists shall receive a minimum of 8 hours of training as required by Section 900.12(a)(2)(iii)(E) of the Mammography Quality Standards.
- E. Technologists responsible for mammography quality control will be oriented to laser processor QC and other related QC tests before performing this test independently.

Technologists' Performance Requirements

Technologists who perform mammographic examinations and related procedures shall adhere to the following performance criteria:

- ◆ Follow all rules regarding technologist's restrictions.
- ◆ Perform all assigned duties correctly and conscientiously.
- ◆ Correctly utilize protective barriers when making radiation exposures.
- ◆ Wear personal radiation monitoring devices at the waist or collar during all working hours.
- ◆ Obtain patient history and record any pertinent information regarding the patient, the examination, or any visible abnormalities of the breast in order to aid the interpreting physician in making an accurate diagnosis.
- ◆ Use optimum image exposure at all times.
- ◆ Follow standing orders and repeat image policies at all times.
- ◆ Be knowledgeable about the required views for mammography and have the ability to correctly position patients.
- ◆ Ensure that the x-ray field size is limited to the dimensions of the detector being used.
- ◆ Communicate clearly and give precise instructions when performing mammography.
- ◆ Utilize the appropriate amount of compression with due consideration to patient comfort.
- ◆ Handle all imaging equipment carefully to avoid artifacts or damage.
- ◆ Maintain current mammography qualifications at all times.
- ◆ Review Policy and Procedure manual annually.

Technologists who perform quality control shall perform duties as defined in Section 900.12 (e)(1-4) of the Mammography Quality Standards.

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Technologists' Restrictions

Technologists who perform mammographic x-rays are subject to the following restrictions which will be enforced by the lead-interpreting physician.

- ◆ Technologists are prohibited from holding the patient during x-ray exposures.
- ◆ Technologists will not make a diagnosis based on any image.
- ◆ Technologists will not report any diagnosis to a patient except as ordered by a physician.
- ◆ Technologists will not operate mammographic x-ray equipment unless trained to do so in a safe and effective manner.
- ◆ Technologists will not perform mammographic x-rays without posting a current license or certificate of advanced training in mammography.
- ◆ Technologists whose mammography qualifications have lapsed will not perform mammograms until qualifications have been re-established.