

	Policy #: 16.3
SUBJECT: Lead Mammographer Responsibilities and Qualifications	Effective: Dec 2006 Reviewed: February 2019
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Lead Mammographer Responsibilities And Qualifications

Purpose: To define the responsibilities and qualifications of the Breast Imaging Medical Director.

Policy: The lead interpreting physician/medical director is responsible for quality, radiation safety, and the technical aspects of mammography, and will:

1. Establish and implement a mammography quality assurance program as defined in Section 900.12(d)-(f) of the Mammography Quality Standards.
2. Ensure that individuals who interpret mammograms and perform mammographic x-rays and mammography quality control meet the qualifications defined in Section 900.12 (a) (1), (2), and (3) of the Mammography Quality Standards.
3. Ensure that technologists do not perform diagnostic mammograms without a specific order or prescription issued by a licentiate of the healing arts.
4. Ensure that all equipment used for mammography is specifically designed for that purpose.
5. Ensure that mammography equipment is certified by both the Department of Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration and that it is maintained in safe operating condition at all times.
6. Oversee the establishment and maintenance of a mammography medical audit program.
7. Ensure that mammographic x-ray equipment has been surveyed annually and that QC tests are performed as required by Section 900.12(e) of the Mammography Quality Standards.
8. Make certain that all patients with abnormal mammography results have a primary physician who is responsible follow-up care.
9. Ensure that the quality of mammographic images is maintained according to the standards established by the facility's accrediting body.
10. Ensure that all ordering physicians and patients receive a written report of mammographic findings within 30 days.
11. Contact patients and physicians immediately to inform them of results that are "suspicious" or "highly suggestive of malignancy."
12. Make a reasonable attempt to ensure that all patients with "suspicious," "highly suggestive of malignancy," or "incomplete" findings receive follow-up care.
13. Ensure that a Medical Outcomes Audit is performed at least annually.
14. Take corrective action when QC test fall outside of control limits or whenever image quality is compromised.
15. Review the facilities Mammography Quality Assurance Program at least annually.

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Interpreting Physicians' Qualifications

Physicians who interpret mammograms must meet the qualifications defined in Section 900.12(a)(1) of the Mammography Quality Standards. They shall submit appropriate documentation to management.

A. A copy of the following documents shall be maintained in the radiology department:

1. Medical License
2. Board Certification
3. Formal training in mammography interpretation
4. Proof of initial experience
5. Proof of continuing experience
6. Continuing education certificates

Interpreting physicians who fail to maintain current continuing education or continuing experience must reestablish qualifications as defined in Section 900.12(a) (1)(iv) prior to interpreting mammograms independently.