

**STATE OF MAINE
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

Minutes of March 17, 2005

Members Present: Dawn Commune, Chair; Linda Woods, Complaint Officer; Carrie Steele, Brian Brock and William Curtis

Others Present: Penny Vaillancourt, Administrator; Dennis Smith, Assistant Attorney General; Diane Bradstreet, Board Clerk; and Anne Head, Director

Members Absent: Terry Zipper

CALL TO ORDER

Dawn Commune, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ANNE HEAD, ACTING COMMISSIONER

Anne Head, Director and Acting Commissioner, addressed the Board regarding the issue that has come before them in recent months, specifically expanding the scope of practice of a radiologic technologist to include the ability to administer medications such as narcotics.

Ms. Head informed the Board that it is constrained from approving an activity that is not in the Board's statute and that expanding the scope of practice would require a legislative change. Ms. Head further explained that the department is aware of the challenges facing the board's statute and that it is committed to begin the appropriate review in conjunction with the Board. Ms. Head suggested that the Board form a working group consisting of board members, staff and interested parties for the purpose of studying this matter thoroughly.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

In a motion by Brian Brock, seconded by William Curtis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the February 17, 2005 minutes as written.

DISCUSSION REGARDING TERRY ZIPPER'S LETTER

The Board reviewed and discussed the letter written by Terry Zipper to Dawn Commune, Chair, regarding the Board's February 17, 2005 decision to expand the scope of practice of a radiologic technologist.

As explained today by Anne Head in a letter written to the Board Members under date of March 9, 2005, a person's role as a board member does not give him/her the authority to make policy decisions regarding scope of practice. Such decisions are reserved for the Maine Legislature.

In a motion by Brian Brock, seconded by William Curtis, the Board voted unanimously to send a letter to all licensees inviting them to attend the board's next meeting to provide public comment to the board regarding this issue. This invitation will be an effort to collect and gather information about current practice standards, including, but not limited to the identification of certain medications and prescriptions, as well as the latest technologies in radiologic technology.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board discussed correspondence from the following individuals requesting the Board's clarification on whether licensed radiologic technologists can administer medications:

Anne Hall, Director of Invasive Cardiac Services
Maine Medical Center

Mike Dubiel, Director of Medical Imaging
Eastern Maine Medical Center

Susan Rivet, R.N.
Director of Oncology/Outpatient Clinics
Brighton Hospital

The Board will respond to these individuals in stating that after a thorough review and discussion of its laws and rules, the board concluded that it is restrained from approving practice procedures, such as the administration of medications, that aren't specifically provided for in the board's statute. However, the board is aware that the statutory language is dated, and will undertake a review process that will include an examination of current statutory language with the professional practice standards.

Discussed was correspondence from Bev Neugebauer, Administrator of the Maine Orthopaedic Center, requesting the Board's clarification on whether a certified medical assistant under the employ and training of an orthopedic surgeon is eligible to train for the clinical requirements of a limited radiographer.

The Board will respond that its statute does not allow the Board to issue trainee status to individuals seeking clinical training, which in effect would permit individuals to practice radiologic technology without the required license. Therefore, a certified medical assistant would not be allowed to do the clinical training requirement as a trainee.

APPROVAL OF LETTER TO JUDITH MATEJA

The Board reviewed the letter that was written to Judith Mateja, B.S.R.T. of Cutler Health Center in response to her letter of January 9, 2005 asking whether athletic trainers are allowed to order x-rays.

After a thorough review and discussion of the issues involved, the board concluded that it does not have jurisdiction over licensed athletic trainers, or over the supervision and delegation authority of licensed physicians. The board recommended that Ms. Mateja contact the Board of Licensure in Medicine for clarification regarding a licensed physician's delegation authority to a licensed athletic trainer to order x-rays.

Also, in a motion by Linda Woods, seconded by Carrie Steele, the Board voted unanimously to write to the Board of Licensure in Medicine requesting clarification as to whether or not a licensed physician can delegate his or her supervision authority of a radiologic technologist.

Discussed was correspondence from Joseph Ullman, Medical Director of the Department of Radiology at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center requesting clarification as to whether or not a nurse can move a C-arm.

This response will be that the Board's statute does not permit registered nurses without a radiologic technologist license issued by this Board to move a C-ARM; nor does the statute contain an exception from licensure requirements for a registered nurse.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – PENNY VAILLANCOURT

Ms. Vaillancourt distributed and reviewed with the Board the following information:

- L. D. #1295 – An Act To Establish the Maine Enterprise Commerce Center of Augusta

- L. D. #1283 – An Act To Allow Applicants for Limited Radiographer Licenses To Take Qualifying Views
- List of the members of the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development
- Financial Analysis Report
- Summary of the number of licensees

Ms. Vaillancourt suggested that all individuals who sent correspondence to the Board regarding the administering of medication by radiologic technologists be placed on the interested parties list when the Board starts the review of its statute and rules.

ADJOURN

In a motion by Brian Brock, seconded by Linda Woods, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane J. Bradstreet
Board Clerk