

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

Minutes of August 25, 2005

Members Present: Dawn Commune, Chair; Linda Woods, Complaint Officer; Terry Zipper, Carrie Owen and William Curtis

Others Present: Penny Vaillancourt, Administrator and Diane Bradstreet, Board Clerk

Members Absent: Brian Brock

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

In a motion by William Curtis, seconded by Terry Zipper, the board voted unanimously to approve the May 19, 2005 minutes as written.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY BOARD OF EXAMINERS WORK GROUP REPORT

Ann Hall, RTR, Cardiac Cath Lab, MMC and Judith Ripley, Director, Allied Health Education, CMMC participants of the Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners Work Group presented the group's completed report. This group was assembled in response to public inquiries it had received requesting the board to clarify the scope of practice of licensed radiologic technologists as outlined in Title 32, Chapter 103 "Medical Radiation Health and Safety Act." Specifically, the work group's goal was to draft proposed legislation to the department for its consideration to the 122nd Legislature – Second Regular Session. After review and discussion of this report, in a motion by Terry Zipper, seconded by Carrie Owen, the board voted unanimously to approve the report as amended.

In a motion by Terry Zipper, seconded by Carrie Owen, the board voted unanimously to send an informational letter to all hospitals regarding practice issues.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed and provided the responses to the following correspondence:

Melissa Blair – Ms. Blair inquired as to whether or not an ARRT could perform fluoroscopy in the cardiac cath lab.

Response: A Maine Licensed Radiographer is permitted to perform fluoroscopy as part of a radiographer's scope of practice. However, it is up to the individual employer/hospital to determine who can perform functions within a cardiac cath lab.

Kelly Gagnon – Ms. Gagnon inquired whether or not a nurse practitioner or other clinical person (RN/MA) can be trained to perform bone density testing and too identify the training requirements.

Response: First, the performance of bone densitometry is considered radiologic technology; therefore, the performance of bone densitometry requires a radiologic technology license. Second, the board cannot answer whether or not a licensed nurse practitioner can perform bone densitometry as part of their scope of practice, and recommend that Ms. Gagnon contact the Maine State Board of Nursing.

Finally, in Maine, the board recognizes schools of radiology to be the source of the education, training, and examination required for bone densitometry. Once the education, training, and examination are completed - the individual candidate would then apply for a radiographic technology license to perform bone densitometry.

Sage Lady – Ms. Lady inquired as to whether or not a licensed nuclear medicine technologist can perform bone densitometry testing.

Response: The board's current rules define absorptiometry as: "the use of ionizing radiation for determination of bone mineral density. Only fully licensed technologists or licensed practitioners are permitted to perform absorptiometry." The board further defines a fully licensed technologist as either a radiographer, a radiation therapist, or a nuclear medicine technologist.

Aleta M. Kilborn – Ms. Kilborn inquired whether a limited radiographer can perform bone densitometry.

Response: First, according to board rules, only fully licensed radiologic technologists (radiographers, radiation therapists, nuclear medicine technologists) may perform bone densitometry - not limited licensed radiographers. Second, the performance of bone densitometry is considered radiologic technology; therefore, the performance of bone densitometry requires a full radiologic technology license. However, the board cannot answer whether or not an RN/MA can assist in the testing as part of their scope of practice, and recommended that Ms. Kilborn contact the Maine State Board of Nursing.

Patty Litwiler-Britt – Ms. Litwiler-Britt requested the Board to review her course syllabus for consideration of a limited x-ray program.

Response: Ms. Litwiler-Britt was provided with a copy of Chapter 2 of the board's rules which outlines the educational requirements for the Limited Licensee. Specifically, the board wanted Ms. Litwiler-Britt to know that the minimum number of educational training is 120 hours, and according to the documents she provided the board only reflects a total of 50 hours. Additionally, the board suggested that she may want to examine the other educational components of the board's rules to ensure that her program meets the minimum requirements.

The board did not formally reject or formally accept her program. Rather, the board offered to inform her that it does not pre-approve programs outside of an application process. The application process requires a candidate and a sponsoring licensed practitioner to seek board approval of a training program that contains both an educational and a clinical component.

Eastern Maine Medical Center (Dr. David S. Warner) – Dr. Warner wrote with his concerns regarding his attempt to recruit qualified nuclear medicine technologists

Response: The board will inform Dr. Warner that it will go forward with making the necessary rule changes to provide another pathway for licensure for foreign trained applicants.

Dr. Warner was also offered the opportunity to be placed on an interested parties list to be informed of the draft rules, as well as the public hearing to provide comment.

Todd O'Brien, DPM – Dr. O'Brien inquired of the recently enacted legislation allowing individuals to train in a practitioner's office for the limited radiographer license.

Response: Dr. O'Brien will be informed that the board will be initiating agency rulemaking to provide the necessary guidelines and process by which applicants and sponsoring practitioners can proceed accordingly. Dr. O'Brien was offered the opportunity to be placed on an interested parties list so that he will be notified of the draft rules and the public hearing.

DISCUSSION REGARDING STAFF APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS

In a motion by Terry Zipper, seconded by Linda Woods, the board voted unanimously to allow board staff and the board's assistant attorney general, in conjunction with the chair, permission to approve applications for licensure for individuals who have disclosed prior criminal convictions.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – PENNY VAILLANCOURT

Ms. Vaillancourt provided the following information:

- Update on the number of active licenses
- Financial Analysis Report for FY 2005 and FY 2006
- The Online Renewal program will soon be implemented and licensees will soon be able to renew online.

ADJOURN

In a motion by Terry Zipper, seconded by Linda Woods, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane J. Bradstreet
Board Clerk