



Advocacy Update

Quarterly Advocacy Newsletter from the OSRT

MISSION

The OSRT will advocate for Ohio medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals by advancing professional practice to enhance the quality of patient care.

VISION

The OSRT will be the voice of Ohio medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals.

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How well do you know the Ohio Department of Health?

We all know that the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) issues and renews Radiologic licenses but there is much more going on in the areas of radiation and radiation protection. Test your knowledge by answering these questions.



1. There are 9,392 licensed technologists in Ohio.
2. ODH offers an examination for each of the 4 types of licenses: Radiographer, Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Radiation Therapist and GXMO.
3. The employer/supervisor of a license holder is the only individual that can anonymously report license violations to the Bureau of Radiation Protection/ODH.
4. The percentage of individuals passing the GXMO exam is approximately 80%.
5. Not all GXMO licenses are the same, they are restricted to specific anatomical procedures.
6. Since the Radiological license is issued and administered by the ODH, Registered Technologists have little input into the process.

Check out the next pages for the answers!

How well do you know the Ohio Department of Health?

1. There are 9,392 licensed technologists in Ohio.

There are 16,409 licensed technologists:

- Radiographer license is by far the largest: 13,442
- Nuclear Medicine Technologists: 1,210
- Radiation Therapists: 869
- General X-ray Machine Operators (GXMO): 888



The licensing law (ORC 4773) defines the scope of each category:

- Radiographers can perform procedures using x-ray generating equipment
- Nuclear Medicine Technologists prepare/administer radiopharmaceuticals to humans and conducts detection and measurement of radioactivity
- Radiation Therapists utilize radiation generating equipment for therapeutic purposes.
- GXMO perform limited radiologic procedures and does not determine the site or dosage of radiation the patient receives.

2. ODH offers an examination for each of the 4 types of licenses; Radiographer, Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Radiation Therapist and GXMO.

The department does offer these exams, however, since ODH accepts the ARRT and the CNMTB exams, most individuals applying for licenses opt to take the national examination instead. Though, the GXMO exam is specific for an Ohio GXMO license and is only administered in Ohio.



The GXMO exam is given several times each month in multiple locations. An individual must have completed an ODH approved didactic course and demonstrated competency in specific exams (The details are specified in OAC rule #3701-72-03). There are currently 7 approved didactic programs.

3. The employer/ supervisor of a radiation license holder is the only individual that can anonymously report license violations to the Bureau of Radiation Protection/ ODH.

Anyone can report a suspected violation to the department by using the Bradiation@odh.ohio.gov or calling 1-800-342-0553. The department will contact you and you can request to remain anonymous.



How well do you know the Ohio Department of

4. **The percentage of individuals passing the GXMO exam is approximately 80%.**

The pass rate is 29% and approximately 300 individuals sit for the exam annually.



5. **Not all GXMO licenses are the same, they are restricted to specific anatomical procedures.**

Once an individual passes the written GXMO exam, they are issued a license only for areas in which they have provided evidence of minimal competence in a laboratory setting. These are limited to:

- Chest/Abdomen
- Extremity
- Skull/Sinuses
- Spine
- Podiatric
- Bone Densitometry

A license holder can be certified in more than one area, however, they are restricted to practice only in the areas of the license.



6. **Since the Radiological license is issued and administered by the ODH, Registered Technologists have little input into the process.**

The Department is very willing to listen to concerns from interested parties and openly discusses any changes to all rules. The license rules are discussed in the Radiation Generating Equipment (REC) subcommittee of the Radiation Advisory Council (RAC). Currently three technologists sit on this committee (Radiographer, Nuclear Medicine Technologist and Radiation Therapist). In addition, the OSRT sends individuals as guests to attend all meetings. The Department is open to comments and concerns and encourages input. It is important that we have people there to speak and be the voice of the profession. Our future is determined by the laws and rules that both permit our practice and restrict our practice.





Update on Current Advocacy Challenges

OSRT lobbyist P. Kudlak was informed in May that the APRNs would like to amend our licensure statute (ORC 4773.01). They described this as a technical change in methods of communication, not a substantive change. The following is an overview of their proposal:

- **Updating Communication formats for GXMO technicians to remove barrier to care access:** Current statute states that for a GXMO tech to take an x-ray a physician, podiatrist, chiropractor or mechano-therapist must be on-site.
- **Problem:** In freestanding urgent care centers it is not uncommon for the providers to be solely APRNs. When this is the case any individual who comes to the center and needs an x-ray must be sent to another urgent care which is staffed by a physician or to the local emergency department (ED). This work around not only delays care for the individual but increases cost because of ED co-pays or the risk of claim denial as the chief complaint is not “emergent”.
- **Solution:** Modify statute language to allow GXMO techs to be able to electronically communicate with their physician supervisor, i.e. text, phone call or email, if there is a question on what type radiograph is needed.

As stated above in the problem, the freestanding urgent care centers often do not have a qualified physician on site, so it appeared to the OSRT that the proposed change to allow the GXMO to be supervised by electronic means would actually allow the required supervisor to be off-site. Currently, a GXMO license requires the supervising physician, podiatrist, chiropractor or mechanotherapist to be present at the site of the radiation exam. This does not require them to be in the room, but at the same physical location. This is termed direct supervision.

The proposed change would allow the GXMO to function at the same supervisory level (general supervision) as the Radiographer (also the Nuclear Medicine Technologist and the Radiation Therapist). The OSRT feels that this level of supervision is inadequate for individuals who may have as little as 16 hours of education.

The OSRT and the Ohio State Radiological Society (Radiologists), met (virtually) with the APRN organization and their lobbyist to discuss the matter. The OSRT expressed its opposition to any change to the license law that would decrease the supervision required for GXMOs. The GXMO license category was not meant to function without adequate supervision. Sixteen hours of classroom instruction, and demonstration of minimal competency in specific categories does not adequately prepare individuals to make radiation related decisions. This is not only an issue for the radiation safety of the patient, but for the competence in achieving diagnostic quality images.



Update on Current Advocacy Challenges (con't.)

The OSRT feels the solution to this problem is not to make a change in the law that weakens patient safety. The solution is for urgent care centers to hire an individual that holds the appropriate license that can perform the functions required. The person already exists that meets the needs of the urgent care centers and that is the Radiographer. Instead of trying to weaken patient safety, it is the OSRT position that urgent care centers should hire the person with the ability to function safely.

We will keep you updated on further developments.

This is one example of the importance of the OSRT to watchdog events that impact our practice. Without the OSRT speaking for technologists, it is possible that the full picture will not be seen by those that make regulations we are required to follow.

To this end, the OSRT has a lobbyist that networks with other lobbyists, senators and representatives routinely on our behalf. This helps us form friends and allies who share our concerns and goals. We also attend all Ohio Department of Health meetings pertinent to radiation and provide input.

The vision of the OSRT is “To be the voice of Ohio Medical Imaging and Radiologic Science professionals”.

What can you do?

You can further support these efforts to safeguard our practice by joining the OSRT or encouraging your friends and colleagues join the OSRT! The larger the membership the more the legislators and administrators listen to our concerns. Don't think your membership is irrelevant to these efforts - having a large population of members that supports the OSRT's positions is absolutely critical. Help Us Help You!

Follow us!

Be sure to follow the OSRT on social media!

