

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE**

**SECTION VI. RADIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS RULES**

**PART 21 RULES REGARDING RADIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS**

**21.1 INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS**

- (a) Copies of the statutes concerning radiologist assistants, Chapter 52 of Title 26 Vermont Statutes Annotated (V.S.A.), are accessible online, and hard copies may be obtained from the Department of Health, Board of Medical Practice.
- (b) These Rules pertaining to radiologist assistants are adopted under authority of current 26 V.S.A. § 2852.
- (c) The words and phrases used in these Rules shall have the same meaning given to them at current 26 V.S.A. § 2852.
- (d) These are rules specifically regarding the training, practice, supervision, qualification, scope of practice, places of practice, and protocols for radiologist assistants, and patient notification and consent.

**2121.2 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION**

- (a) The eligibility requirements for certification as a radiologist assistant are listed at current 26 V.S.A. § 2854 and supplemented by these rules. The requirements for temporary certification are outlined at current 26 V.S.A. § 2855 and supplemented by these rules.
- (b) Prior to being certified as a radiologist assistant by the Board of Medical Practice, a person must be qualified by education, training, experience, and personal character to provide medical services under the direction and supervision of a radiologist. The applicant must submit to the Board all information that the Board considers necessary to evaluate the applicant's qualifications.

**21.3 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION; INITIAL CERTIFICATION**

- (a) An applicant for initial certification as a radiologist assistant shall submit to the Board:
  - (1) The Board's application form, completed in full;

- (2) A certified copy of his or her birth certificate, or for an applicant who can show good cause why he or she cannot obtain a certified copy of a birth certificate, other proof of identity and date of birth as found acceptable by the Board;
  - (3) Verification of current licensure as a radiologic technologist in radiography in Vermont under Chapter 51 of Title 26;
  - (4) Verification of certification or licensure in all other states where the applicant is currently or ever was certified or licensed to provide medical services;
  - (5) Two reference forms including one from a recent supervising radiologist and one from either another prior supervising radiologist or, if the applicant is a recent graduate, from the director of the applicant's training program;
  - (6) Documentation of successful completion of a radiologist assistant educational program as specified in 26 V.S.A. §2854(1);
  - (7) Documentation of satisfactory completion of the radiologist assistant certification examination given by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), with current certification;
  - (8) Verification of current certification as a radiologic technologist in radiography by the ARRT;
  - (9) Application by the applicant's proposed primary supervising radiologist, including a statement that the primary supervising radiologist shall be personally responsible for all professional activities of the radiologist assistant, except for those activities performed under the supervision of a different radiologist who has been designated as a primary or secondary supervising radiologist for that radiologist assistant;
  - (10) A protocol signed by the proposed primary supervising radiologist;
  - (11) The employment contract with the primary supervising radiologist or the hospital at which the radiologist practices, or in the absence of a contract, other proof of employment by the primary supervising radiologist or by the hospital at which the radiologist practices, as may be determined by the board; and
  - (12) The required fee.
- (b) Regarding any of the above items, except the required fee, the Board shall have the discretion to require additional information to verify that the requirement has been met.

#### **21.4 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION; TEMPORARY CERTIFICATION**

- (a) The Board may issue a temporary certification to an applicant who otherwise meets the requirements of 26 V.S.A. § 2854(1), (3) and (4) if:
  - (1) The ARRT certification examination has not been offered since the applicant became eligible to take it; or
  - (2) The applicant has taken the ARRT certification examination one time but has not yet received the results of the examination.
- (b) The holder of a temporary certification shall take and successfully pass the first available ARRT examination. If the holder of a temporary certification does not take the examination, his or her temporary certification shall expire on the date of that examination. However, if the holder of a temporary certification can show that there was exceptional cause that prevented him or her from taking the examination, the Board may, in its discretion, and for good cause shown, renew the temporary certification until the date of the next available ARRT examination.
- (c) If the holder of a temporary certification takes the first available ARRT examination but does not successfully pass it, his or her temporary certification shall expire on the day after he or she receives notice of the failure to pass the examination. In that case, the Board shall not renew the temporary certification. The applicant may re-apply for certification only after having taken and passed the examination.

#### **21.5 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION; RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATION**

- (a) Certification shall be renewable every two years on submission of a completed renewal form provided by the Board, payment of the required fee, submission of proof of current, active ARRT certification, and submission of proof of continuing education requirements as required by the Board.
- (b) Lapsed licenses may be renewed under the provisions of 26 V.S.A. § 2856.

#### **21.6 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION; CHANGE OF CERTIFICATION**

- (a) The Board shall be notified and the appropriate applications and documentation filed whenever:
  - (1) The radiologist assistant's protocol changes;
  - (2) The radiologist assistant will be working at a different or an additional office or hospital; or
  - (3) The radiologist assistant will be primarily supervised by a different radiologist.

- (b) Documents already on file with the Board may be referred to and need not be resubmitted.

### **21.7 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION; MORE THAN ONE SUPERVISING RADIOLOGIST**

Each application for initial certification, temporary certification, renewal of certification or change of certification shall identify the primary supervising radiologist who shall be responsible for the radiologist assistant's professional activities and sign the protocol required under 26 V.S.A. § 2853. Subject to the scope of practice restrictions in this rule and Chapter 52 of Title 26, the radiologist assistant may also perform services under the supervision of additional board-certified radiologists working in the same office or hospital as the primary supervising radiologist ("secondary supervising radiologists[s]"), but must file a protocol regarding that supervisory relationship and a statement from the secondary supervising radiologist that he or she is responsible for the professional activities of the radiologist assistant performed under his or her supervision.

### **21.8 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION; TERMINATION OF CERTIFICATION**

If the supervisory relationship between the primary supervising radiologist and the radiologist assistant is terminated for any reason, each party must notify the Board directly and immediately in writing, using the Board's Termination of Contract form. The radiologist assistant shall cease practice until a new application is submitted by a primary supervising radiologist and is approved by the Board.

### **21.9 PRACTICE**

- (a) A radiologist assistant shall perform only those tasks assigned on a case-by-case basis by the supervising radiologist. The radiologist assistant shall implement the personalized plan for each patient as individually prescribed by the supervising radiologist after that physician has completed a specific assessment of each patient. In determining which radiologic procedures to assign to a radiologist assistant, a supervising radiologist shall consider all of the following:
- (1) The education, training and experience of the radiologist assistant;
  - (2) The radiologist assistant's scope of practice as defined in Chapter 52 of Title 26 and these rules;
  - (3) The conditions on the practice of the radiologist assistant set out in the written practice protocol;

- (4) The guidelines adopted by the American College of Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and the ARRT, as amended from time to time;
- (5) The physical proximity of the supervising radiologist and the radiologist assistant or assistants he or she may be supervising concurrently; and
- (6) The number of patients whose care is being supervised concurrently by the supervising radiologist.

#### **21.10 SUPERVISION**

- (a) A supervising radiologist shall supervise a radiologist assistant within the terms, conditions, and limitations set forth in the written practice protocol filed with the Board. Radiologist supervision requires, at all times, a direct, continuing and close supervisory relationship between a radiologist assistant and the supervising radiologist.
- (b) Supervision does not, necessarily, require the constant physical presence of the supervising radiologist; however, the radiologist must remain readily available in the facility for immediate diagnosis and treatment of emergencies.
- (c) The supervising radiologist shall ensure that, with respect to each patient, all activities, functions, services and treatment measures are immediately and properly documented in written form by the radiologist assistant. All written entries shall be reviewed, countersigned, and dated by the supervising radiologist. The supervising radiologist's signature on the medical record will fulfill this requirement for all written entries on the record.
- (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the supervising radiologist from addressing an emergency in another location in the facility.

#### **21.11 PROTOCOL AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

- (a) At no time shall the scope of practice for the radiologist assistant include procedures or treatments that the supervising radiologist does not perform in his or her own practice.
- (b) A radiologist assistant may not interpret images, make diagnoses, or prescribe medications or therapies.
- (c) The radiologist assistant may assist the radiologist in developing and implementing a radiologic care plan for a patient. In so doing, the radiologist assistant may, in the discretion of the radiologist, perform patient assessment, patient management and selected examinations as outlined below:

- (1) Obtaining consent for and injecting agents that facilitate and/or enable diagnostic imaging;
- (2) Obtaining clinical history from the patient or medical record;
- (3) Performing pre-procedure and post-procedure evaluation of patients undergoing invasive procedures;
- (4) Assisting radiologists with invasive procedures;
- (5) Performing fluoroscopy for non-invasive procedures with the radiologist providing direct supervision of the service;
- (6) Monitoring and tailoring selected examinations under direct supervision (*i.e.*, IVU, CT urogram, GI studies, VCUG, and retrograde urethrograms);
- (7) Communicating the reports of radiologist's findings to the referring physician or an appropriate representative with appropriate documentation;
- (8) Providing naso-enteric and oro-enteric feeding tube placement in uncomplicated patients;
- (9) Performing selected peripheral venous diagnostic procedures; and
- (10) Any other activity that the Board approves in a protocol to allow for changing technology or practices in radiology.

#### **21.12 PLACES OF PRACTICE**

A radiologist assistant shall work only in the office of the primary supervising radiologist or in the hospital in which the primary supervising radiologist practices.

#### **21.13 PATIENT NOTIFICATION AND CONSENT**

Any physician, clinic, or hospital that uses the services of a radiologist assistant must:

- (1) post a clear notice to that effect in a conspicuous place;
- (2) except in case of an emergency, include language in the patient consent form that the radiologist may use a radiologist assistant; and
- (3) require each radiologist assistant to wear a name tag clearly indicating that he or she is a radiologist assistant.