



Massachusetts Society of Radiologic Technologists

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March 13, 2011

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health
Radiation Control Program
Robert Gallagher, Director
Schrafft Building, Suite 1M2A
529 Main Street
Charlestown, MA 02129

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Society of Radiologic Technologists (MSRT), the MSRT membership, and other technologists licensed in Massachusetts, I am asking that the Radiation Control Program reconsiders its current stand on not recognizing and granting continuing education credits toward meeting technologists' continuing education requirements for their Massachusetts licensing when technologists pass an advanced certification examination with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

While the MSRT does agree with the Radiation Control Program's stand that when individuals pass the ARRT's entry level exams in Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology and Radiation Therapy they should not be granted continuing education credits, we believe that when technologists pass an advanced certification exam they should be held in a different category. Once technologists learn new information and expand their knowledge base in the radiologic sciences beyond their initial education we believe they are meeting the requirements of continuing their education.

The ARRT recognizes and grants technologists who pass an ARRT advanced certification exam in the Radiologic Sciences 24 continuing education credits. The MSRT would like the Radiation Control Board to consider doing the same. The MSRT's executive board believes that for technologists to successfully pass one of these advanced certification exams they not only must learn new technological information, but they are also required to complete specific hands-on clinical experience demonstrating their abilities to perform in these areas in the Radiologic Sciences. We believe by passing these advanced certification exams they have more than adequately demonstrated that they are meeting continuing education requirements. Currently the ARRT offers advanced certification exams in the following categories:

- Mammography
- Computed Tomography
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (Note: Both a primary and post-primary track)
- Quality Management
- Bone Densitometry
- Cardiac-Interventional Radiography
- Vascular-Interventional Radiography

- Sonography (Note: Both a primary and post-primary track)
- Vascular Sonography
- Breast Sonography

The MSRT executive board hopes that the Radiation Control Program will consider that when technologists have passed these advanced certification exams they have earned 24 continuing education credits toward meeting some of the Radiation Control Program's continuing education requirements to maintain their Radiologic Technology license. These technologists would still be required to meet the Radiation Control Program's specific continuing education category requirements for their specific area of license, i.e., Mammography, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, or Radiation Therapy. Thus, technologists would still need to earn their required two (2) Radiation Protection/Radiation Safety continuing education credits during their biennium in addition to passing the ARRT's advanced certification exam.

The MSRT is asking that advanced certification exams that are applicable in the use of ionizing radiation would be granted continuing education credits for Radiography or Mammography as is appropriate. If technologists pass the advanced certification exams in Computed Tomography, Cardiac-Interventional Radiography, Vascular-Interventional Radiography or Bone Densitometry they would be granted 24 Credits in Radiography. If technologists pass the Mammography certification exam they would receive 24 credits for Mammography.

Since the ARRT also offers advanced certification exams in categories that do not involve ionizing radiation the MSRT executive board is asking that these exams would be granted 24 credits towards meeting the General Healthcare continuing education requirements. Thus, if a technologist earned advanced certification in Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Sonography, Vascular Sonography, Breast Sonography or Quality Management they would receive 24 continuing education credits in General Healthcare.

These technologists would still be required to earn the continuing education credits specific to their area of license, as well as, the two (2) Radiation Protection/Radiation Safety credits as required under the Radiologic Technologist Licensing regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact me at (978) 738-7493 or by e-mail at ngarcia@necc.mass.edu.

Sincerely,

Nancy Garcia, M.Ed, R.T.R

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