



TEXAS BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL PHYSICISTS

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Dear Sunset Advisory Commission,

I am writing this letter regarding statements included in the Sunset Staff Report of May 2014 that pertain to the Texas Board of Licensure for Professional Medical Physicists. The report suggests that medical physicists are regulated by another state program or private sector accreditation. I would like to provide the Commission with detailed background I hope will provide an appreciation of why that statement is only conditionally correct.

The Texas Board of Licensure for Professional Medical Physicists licenses and regulates medical physicists in Texas. The practice of medical radiation physics is the use of principles and accepted protocols of physics to assure the correct quality, quantity, and placement of ionizing radiation during the performance of a radiological procedure prescribed by a practitioner that will protect the patient and others from harmful excessive ionizing radiation. The thrust of the Board of Licensure for Professional Medical Physicists is to license individuals who provide medical radiation physics services to hospitals and clinics that use ionizing radiation on humans.

The statements made in the report infer the Board's activities are duplicated by both public and private programs. This is only partially accurate.

The Radiation Control Program in Texas is the regulatory program designed to prevent unnecessary radiation exposure to the public. The Program's rules require a licensed medical physicist for some but not all ionizing quality performance activities. The Medical Physics Practice Act closes the gap not covered by the Radiation Control Program rules.

Similarly in the private sector, there are accrediting organizations that do address the use of a qualified expert medical physicist. However, many of these programs are voluntary or incompletely cover the entire scope of ionizing radiological procedures. There are several accreditation organizations that provide accreditation services for suppliers of "advanced diagnostic imaging procedures". The advanced diagnostic imaging procedures that use ionizing radiation include CT, nuclear medicine and PET. There are no accrediting programs for radiographic or fluoroscopic imaging procedures that also use ionizing radiation.

I believe this additional information provided shows that there is no comprehensive medical physicist oversight other than the Texas Board of Licensure for Professional Medical Physicists.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles W. Beasley".

Charles W. Beasley, Ph.D., LMP, DABMP, DABSNM

Chair

Texas Board of Licensure for Professional Medical Physicists
Professional Licensing & Certification Unit