

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 1:16:25 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 12:16 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 - 12:16

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Tina Marie

Last Name: Briere

Title: Assistant Professor, Radiation Physics

Organization you are affiliated with: UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

One of the main jobs of a medical physicist is to calibrate machines used for radiation treatments of cancer patients. Incorrect calibration or functioning can result in underdosing a tumor or overdosing the patient, leading to injury or death. While one might think this is a thing of the past, recent articles in the NY Times have proven otherwise. (Facilities in Texas were notably absent from these articles.) As one of my mentors once said, "A bad doctor can kill one patient at a time. A bad medical physicist can kill a lot of people at once."

Texas was one of the earliest states to adopt licensure for medical physicists and has led the way in protecting patient safety. The AAPM is working with the states to promote licensure throughout the US. While we do have board certification in our field, anyone can call themselves a medical physicist. Licensure is an important safeguard in making sure standards of education and training are upheld in every facility in the state. Without licensing, many facilities will choose to hire unqualified workers at low cost, at the risk to the patients. I worked hard to become licensed -- after earning my PhD in physics, I studied for uncountable hours in the specialty of medical physics, trained for years, and then became board certified. I keep up with the requirements to maintain my license and proudly display it in my office.

I am very proud of the quality of medical physicists we have in the great State of Texas. Please help us continue to protect our cancer patients by maintaining licensure.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Maintain licensure in the state of Texas for medical physicists.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree