

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2014 8:39:10 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:46 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 - 20:45

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Henderson

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: ARRT

City: League City

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or

Opposed: In my 6 years of experience in medical radiology I have worked in several environments. I have worked in the clinic setting mainly and I have seen several violations in radiation protection. These violations were from Non-certified Technologists (NCT) and Podiatric Medical Assistants who both receive very minimal education and training in radiology protection and exposure, usually a 2 day seminar. Their limited knowledge causes excessive exposure to patients. Example: a 7 year old came into the podiatry office with chronic foot pain and the child was x-rayed by the medical assistant at the same strength as the adults (3 Xs what was needed), without a lead apron for protection of scatter radiation. The child was diagnosed with flat feet and fitted with prosthetics. The patient will need x-rays every 6 months with his check-up to determine if he has any change in bone alignment or has outgrown the prosthetics. Two x-rays per year from 7 to 20 years of age is 26 exposures per foot at an excessive strength can cause cancer of the bone. At the minimum exposure strength needed to achieve the image there would be a huge decrease in the risk of cancer. In addition the to the issue of excessive exposure to radiation there was also an issue of cross contamination of disease. The film cassettes were not wiped down between patients even when the patient had open abscesses as a result of their HIV.

The NCT just wiped the puss off with a paper towel and went to get the next patient. Fortunately, I am a trained radiology technologist and had received a full semester on containment of contamination. Had I not recognized the patient from rooming him and removed the cassettes and decontaminated them the outcome could of been deadly. These types of errors happen on a daily basis in clinics all over the state. At this time the use of radiation should be restricted to individuals that have had extensive training in the use of radiation emitting medical equipment. Individuals that take a weekend class/seminar should never be allowed to take x-rays. The patient well-being would be greatly improved and the long term, unnecessary, damage being done to them could be eliminated.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I recommend that the state do away with non-certified technologist and all other types of licensure, such as podiatric medical assistants, that allows under-educated

individuals to operate radiation emitting equipment. Even very competent doctors will tell you they get a general course in x-ray but they do not feel competent to operate an x-ray machine, excluding radiologist of course. Only individuals that can pass the standard minimum testing from the ARRT should be allowed to operate x-ray equipment. The patient population would not be subject to undetermined amounts of excessive radiation if there was better education and control.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree