Preface to Practice Standards

A profession’s practice standards serve as a guide for appropriate practice. The practice standards define the practice and establish general criteria to determine compliance. Practice standards are authoritative statements established by the profession for judging the quality of practice, service and education provided by individuals who practice in medical imaging and radiation therapy.

Practice Standards can be used by individual facilities to develop job descriptions and practice parameters. Those outside the imaging, therapeutic, and radiation science community can use the standards as an overview of the role and responsibilities of the individual as defined by the profession.

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

Format

The Practice Standards are divided into six sections: introduction, scope of practice, clinical performance, quality performance, professional performance and advisory opinion statements.

*Introduction.* The introduction provides definitions for the practice and the education and certification for individuals in addition to an overview of the specific practice.

*Scope of Practice.* The scope of practice delineates the parameters of the specific practice.

*Clinical Performance Standards.* The clinical performance standards define the activities of the individual in the care of patients and delivery of diagnostic or therapeutic procedures. The section incorporates patient assessment and management with procedural analysis, performance and evaluation.

*Quality Performance Standards.* The quality performance standards define the activities of the individual in the technical areas of performance including equipment and material assessment, safety standards and total quality management.

*Professional Performance Standards.* The professional performance standards define the activities of the individual in the areas of education, interpersonal relationships, self-assessment and ethical behavior.

*Advisory Opinion Statements.* The advisory opinions are interpretations of the standards intended for clarification and guidance for specific practice issues.

Each performance standards section is subdivided into individual standards. The standards are numbered and followed by a term or set of terms that identify the standards, such as
“assessment” or “analysis/determination.” The next statement is the expected performance of the individual when performing the procedure or treatment. A rationale statement follows and explains why an individual should adhere to the particular standard of performance.

Criteria. Criteria are used in evaluating an individual’s performance. Each set is divided into two parts: the general criteria and the specific criteria. Both criteria should be used when evaluating performance.

General Criteria. General criteria are written in a style that applies to imaging and radiation science individuals. These criteria are the same in all of the practice standards, with the exception of limited x-ray machine operators, and should be used for the appropriate area of practice.

Specific Criteria. Specific criteria meet the needs of the individuals in the various areas of professional performance. While many areas of performance within imaging and radiation sciences are similar, others are not. The specific criteria are drafted with these differences in mind.
Introduction to Medical Dosimetry Practice Standards

Definition

The practice of medical dosimetry is performed by health care professionals responsible for designing a treatment plan for use in the administration of ionizing radiation for the purpose of treating diseases, primarily cancer.

The complex nature of cancer frequently requires the use of multiple treatment specialties. Radiation oncology is one such specialty. It requires an interdisciplinary team of radiation oncologists, medical dosimetrists, radiation therapists, medical radiation physicists and nurses. It is typically the medical dosimetrist who generates an optimal treatment plan and ensures the appropriate transfer of data that the radiation therapist will use to treat the patient. The medical dosimetrist maintains a commitment to a high degree of accuracy, thoroughness and safety.

Medical dosimetrists must demonstrate an understanding of anatomy, physiology, pathology and medical terminology. In addition, comprehensive knowledge of characteristics and clinical relevance of radiation oncology treatment machine and equipment, radiobiology, radiation physics, radiation safety and psychosocial aspects of cancer is required.

Medical dosimetrists must maintain a high degree of accuracy in treatment planning optimization, treatment techniques and positioning. Medical dosimetrists assist the radiation oncologist in localizing the treatment area, generate a treatment plan and actively communicate with the radiation oncology team to enable and ensure the appropriate transfer of information.

Medical dosimetrists are the primary liaison between the radiation oncologist, radiation therapist, and medical physicist. Medical dosimetrists must remain sensitive to the physical and emotional needs of the patient through good communication and patient assessment. Radiation therapy often involves daily treatments extending over several weeks using highly sophisticated equipment. It requires thorough initial planning as well as constant patient care and monitoring. As members of the health care team, medical dosimetrists participate in quality improvement processes and continually assess their professional performance.

Medical dosimetrists think critically and use independent, professional and ethical judgment in all aspects of their work. They engage in continuing education in their area of practice in order to enhance treatment planning skills, radiation safety, public education, knowledge and technical competence.

Education and Certification

Medical dosimetrists prepare for their role on the interdisciplinary team by successfully completing an accredited educational program in Medical Dosimetry and attaining appropriate certification by the Medical Dosimetry Certification Board. Those passing this examination use the credential Certified Medical Dosimetrist, or CMD.
To maintain CMD certification, medical dosimetrists must complete appropriate continuing education requirements to sustain a level of expertise and awareness of changes and advances in practice.

Overview

An interdisciplinary team of radiation oncologists, radiation therapists, medical dosimetrists, medical physicists and other support staff plays a critical role in the delivery of health services as new modalities emerge and the need for radiation therapy treatment procedures and treatment planning evolve. A comprehensive procedure list for the medical dosimetrist is impractical because clinical activities vary by practice needs and expertise of the medical dosimetrist. As medical dosimetrists gain more experience, knowledge and clinical competence, the clinical activities for the medical dosimetrist may evolve.

State statute, regulation or lawful community custom may dictate practice parameters. Wherever there is a conflict between these standards and state or local statutes or regulations, the state or local statutes or regulations supersede these standards. A medical dosimetrist should, within the boundaries of all applicable legal requirements and restrictions, exercise individual thought, judgment and discretion in the performance of the procedure.
Medical Dosimetrist Scope of Practice

The scope of practice of the medical imaging and radiation therapy professional includes:

- Receiving, relaying and documenting verbal, written and electronic orders in the patient’s medical record.

- Corroborating patient’s clinical history with procedure, ensuring information is documented and available for use by a licensed independent practitioner.

- Verifying informed consent.

- Assuming responsibility for patient needs during procedures.

- Preparing patients for procedures.

- Applying principles of ALARA to minimize exposure to patient, self and others.

- Performing venipuncture as prescribed by a licensed independent practitioner.

- Starting and maintaining intravenous access as prescribed by a licensed independent practitioner.

- Identifying, preparing and/or administering medications as prescribed by a licensed independent practitioner.

- Evaluating images for technical quality, ensuring proper identification is recorded.

- Identifying and managing emergency situations.

- Providing education.

- Educating and monitoring students and other health care providers.

- Performing ongoing quality assurance activities.

The scope of practice of the medical dosimetrist also includes:

1. Preparing radiation therapy treatment plans as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.

2. Obtaining and incorporating patient data from medical imaging procedures to be used in simulation, treatment planning, treatment delivery and quality assurance.

3. Performing or assisting with patient simulation as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.
4. Performing or assisting with the fabrication of patient immobilization and other treatment devices.

5. Preparing the patient for general or special treatment procedures.

6. Developing treatment strategies leading to optimal treatment plans under the direction of a radiation oncologist.

7. Performing dose calculations.

8. Evaluating treatment plans for accuracy.

9. Transferring and documenting treatment planning data according to departmental policy.

10. Monitoring, under the direction of a radiation oncologist, doses to normal tissues within the irradiated volume to ensure tolerance levels are not exceeded.

11. Participating in brachytherapy treatment planning and delivery.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard One – Assessment

The medical dosimetrist collects pertinent data about the patient and the procedure.

Rationale

Information about the patient’s health status is essential in providing appropriate imaging and therapeutic services.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Gathers relevant information from the patient, medical record, significant others and health care providers.

2. Reconfirms patient identification and verifies the procedure requested or prescribed.

3. Reviews the patient’s medical record to verify the appropriateness of a specific examination or procedure.

4. Assesses factors that may contraindicate the procedure, such as medications, patient history, insufficient patient preparation or artifacts.

5. Recognizes signs and symptoms of an emergency.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reviews patient history for previous therapeutic treatments.

2. Assesses the patient’s need for information and reassurance.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Two – Analysis/Determination

The medical dosimetrist analyzes the information obtained during the assessment phase and develops an action plan for completing the procedure.

Rationale
Determining the most appropriate action plan enhances patient safety and comfort, optimizes diagnostic and therapeutic quality and improves efficiency.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:
1. Selects the most appropriate and efficient action plan after reviewing all pertinent data and assessing the patient’s abilities and condition.
2. Employs professional judgment to adapt imaging and therapeutic procedures to improve diagnostic quality and therapeutic outcome.
3. Consults appropriate medical personnel to determine a modified action plan.
4. Determines the need for and selects supplies, accessory equipment, shielding and immobilization devices.
5. Determines the course of action for an emergency or problem situation.
6. Determines that all procedural requirements are in place to achieve a quality diagnostic or therapeutic procedure.

Specific Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:
1. Gathers pertinent data relevant to the treatment planning and delivery process.
2. Recommends the appropriate immobilization devices and positioning aids for simulation and treatment.
3. Participates in reviewing patient treatment parameters and dose records to ensure treatment does not exceed the prescribed dose or normal tissue tolerances.
4. Recommends when to hold treatment until a radiation oncologist is notified.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Three – Patient Education

The medical dosimetrist provides information about the procedure and related health issues according to protocol.

Rationale
Communication and education are necessary to establish a positive relationship.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:
1. Verifies that the patient has consented to the procedure and fully understands its risks, benefits, alternatives and follow-up. The medical dosimetrist verifies that written or informed consent has been obtained.
2. Provides accurate explanations and instructions at an appropriate time and at a level the patients and their care providers can understand. Addresses patient questions and concerns regarding the procedure.
3. Refers questions about diagnosis, treatment or prognosis to a licensed independent practitioner.
4. Provides related patient education.
5. Explains precautions regarding administration of medications.

Specific Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:
1. Explains the role and function of the medical dosimetrist in the overall treatment course.
2. Reviews the treatment plan with the patient as requested by a radiation oncologist.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Four – Performance

The medical dosimetrist performs the action plan.

Rationale
Quality patient services are provided through the safe and accurate performance of a deliberate plan of action.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Performs procedural timeout.
2. Implements an action plan.
3. Explains each step of the action plan to the patient as it occurs and elicits the cooperation of the patient.
4. Uses an integrated team approach.
5. Modifies the action plan according to changes in the clinical situation.
6. Administers first aid or provides life support.
7. Utilizes accessory equipment.
8. Assesses and monitors the patient’s physical, emotional and mental status.
9. Applies principles of sterile technique.
10. Positions patient for anatomic area of interest, respecting patient ability and comfort.
11. Immobilizes patient for procedure.
12. Monitors the patient for reactions to medications.

Specific Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Collaborates with the medical physicist and radiation therapist to fabricate individualized immobilization, custom blocks and other beam-modifying devices.
2. Consults with the radiation oncologist regarding an optimal treatment plan for the patient.
3. Collaborates with the radiation therapist, medical physicist and radiation oncologist regarding the simulation process and procedures.
4. Prepares and positions the patient for simulation and treatment using appropriate positioning aids and immobilization devices.
5. Acquires and reviews simulation images with the radiation therapist, medical physicist and radiation oncologist.
6. Develops a treatment plan as directed and prescribed by the radiation oncologist.
7. Adheres to established best practice protocols, guidelines and radiation oncologist directives.
8. Calculates treatment unit parameters and doses to treatment volumes and points of interest.
9. Reviews treatment planning data for accuracy and appropriateness prior to input into the patient’s chart and initial treatment.
10. Develops a manual or computer generated brachytherapy treatment plan as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.
11. Prepares or assists in preparing brachytherapy sources and equipment.
12. Ensures an independent machine-setting check is completed before treatment is delivered.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Five – Evaluation

The medical dosimetrist determines whether the goals of the action plan have been achieved.

Rationale
Careful examination of the procedure is important to determine that expected outcomes have been met.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Evaluates the patient and the procedure to identify variances that may affect the expected outcome.
2. Completes the evaluation process in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.
3. Measures the procedure against established policies, protocols and benchmarks.
4. Identifies exceptions to the expected outcome.
5. Develops a revised action plan to achieve the intended outcome.
6. Communicates revised action plan to appropriate team members.

Specific Criteria
None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Six – Implementation

The medical dosimetrist implements the revised action plan.

Rationale

It may be necessary to make changes to the action plan to achieve the expected outcome.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Bases the revised plan on the patient’s condition and the most appropriate means of achieving the expected outcome.

2. Takes action based on patient and procedural variances.

3. Measures and evaluates the results of the revised action plan.

4. Notifies appropriate health care provider when immediate clinical response is necessary based on procedural findings and patient condition.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reviews and implements treatment field changes indicated on simulation or portal images.

2. Evaluates reports from the clinical staff regarding deviations from standards or treatment plans and makes adjustments as necessary.

3. Develops additional treatment plans to achieve an optimal dose distribution.

4. Adapts procedures to equipment limitations and patient needs.

5. Ensures accuracy in the transfer and documentation of treatment parameters, according to departmental policies.

6. Works with radiation oncologists, medical physicists and radiation therapists to compensate for treatment inaccuracies.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Seven – Outcomes Measurement

The medical dosimetrist reviews and evaluates the outcome of the procedure.

Rationale
To evaluate the quality of care, the medical dosimetrist compares the actual outcome with the expected outcome.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reviews all diagnostic or therapeutic data for completeness and accuracy.

2. Uses evidenced-based practice to determine whether the actual outcome is within established criteria.

3. Evaluates the process and recognizes opportunities for future changes.

Specific Criteria
None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Eight – Documentation

The medical dosimetrist documents information about patient care, the procedure and the final outcome.

Rationale

Clear and precise documentation is essential for continuity of care, accuracy of care and quality assurance.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Documents diagnostic, treatment and patient data in the medical record in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.
2. Documents exceptions from the established criteria or procedures.
3. Provides pertinent information to authorized individual(s) involved in the patient’s care.
4. Records information used for billing and coding procedures.
5. Archives images or data.
6. Verifies patient consent is documented.
7. Documents procedural timeout.

Specific Criteria

The Medical Dosimetrist:

1. Reports deviations from the standard or planned treatment.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard One – Assessment

The medical dosimetrist collects pertinent information regarding equipment, procedures and the work environment.

Rationale

The planning and provision of safe and effective medical services relies on the collection of pertinent information about equipment, procedures and the work environment.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Determines that services are performed in a safe environment, minimizing potential hazards, in accordance with established guidelines.
2. Confirms that equipment performance, maintenance and operation comply with manufacturer’s specifications.
3. Verifies that protocol and procedure manuals include recommended criteria and are reviewed and revised.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Assesses the environment for any potential radiation hazards.
2. Participates in radiation protection, patient safety, risk management and quality management activities according to departmental policies.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Two – Analysis/Determination

The medical dosimetrist analyzes information collected during the assessment phase to determine the need for changes to equipment, procedures or the work environment.

Rationale

Determination of acceptable performance is necessary to provide safe and effective services.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Assesses services, procedures and environment to meet or exceed established guidelines and adjusts the action plan.

2. Monitors equipment to meet or exceed established standards and adjusts the action plan.

3. Assesses and maintains the integrity of medical supplies such as a lot/expiration, sterility, etc.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Verifies the treatment summary and the mathematical accuracy of the prescription.

2. Reviews the treatment record and verifies calculations before and/or after treatment delivery.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The medical dosimetrist informs the patient, public and other health care providers about procedures, equipment and facilities.

Rationale

Quality assurance activities provide valid and reliable information regarding the performance of equipment, materials and processes.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Elicits confidence and cooperation from the patient, the public and other health care providers by providing timely communication and effective instruction.

2. Presents explanations and instructions at the learner’s level of understanding.

3. Educates the patient, public and other health care providers about procedures along with the biological effects of radiation, sound wave or magnetic field and protection.

4. Provides information to patients, health care providers, students and the public concerning the role and responsibilities of individuals in the profession.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Addresses concerns from the patient and significant others about appropriate and essential uses of radiation in treatment of diseases.

2. Assists in developing and producing educational materials for patients and the public regarding radiation therapy treatments.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Four – Performance

The medical dosimetrist performs quality assurance activities.

Rationale
Equipment, materials and processes depend on ongoing quality assurance activities that evaluate performance based on established guidelines.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Maintains current information on equipment, materials and processes.
2. Performs ongoing quality assurance activities.
3. Performs quality control testing of equipment.

Specific Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Adheres to radiation safety rules and standards.
2. Makes the recommendation to discontinue patient treatment until equipment is operating properly.
3. Demonstrates safe handling, storing and disposal of brachytherapy sources.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Five – Evaluation

The medical dosimetrist evaluates quality assurance results and establishes an appropriate action plan.

Rationale

Equipment, materials and processes depend on ongoing quality assurance activities that evaluate performance based on established guidelines.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:
1. Validates quality assurance testing conditions and results.
2. Evaluates quality assurance results.
3. Formulates an action plan.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:
1. Reviews treatment calculations and ensures the validity of the treatment plan.
2. Ensures treatment parameters have been transferred correctly to the oncology information system.
3. Acquires data necessary to perform accurate patient protocol plans and participates in implementation of the plan.
4. Reviews treatment deviations and assists in determining possible causes and solutions.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Six – Implementation

The medical dosimetrist implements the quality assurance action plan for equipment, materials and processes.

Rationale
Implementation of a quality assurance action plan promotes safe and effective services.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:
1. Assists in supporting the quality assurance action plan.
2. Implements the quality assurance action plan.

Specific Criteria
None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Seven – Outcomes Measurement

The medical dosimetrist assesses the outcome of the quality management action plan for equipment, materials and processes.

Rationale

Outcomes assessment is an integral part of the ongoing quality management action plan to enhance diagnostic and therapeutic services.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reviews the implementation process for accuracy and validity.
2. Determines that actual outcomes are within established criteria.
3. Develops and implements a modified action plan.

Specific Criteria

None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Eight – Documentation

The medical dosimetrist documents quality assurance activities and results.

Rationale

Documentation provides evidence of quality assurance activities designed to enhance safety.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Maintains documentation of quality assurance activities, procedures and results in accordance with established guidelines.

2. Documents in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reports any treatment deviations in accordance with departmental, institutional and national quality assurance guidelines.
Medical Dosimetrist Professional Performance Standards

Standard One – Quality

The medical dosimetrist strives to provide optimal patient care.

Rationale

Patients expect and deserve optimal care during diagnosis and treatment.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Collaborates with others to elevate the quality of care.
2. Participates in ongoing quality assurance programs.
3. Adheres to standards, policies and established guidelines.
4. Applies professional judgment and discretion while performing diagnostic study or treatment.
5. Anticipates and responds to patient needs.
6. Respects cultural variations.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Applies professional judgment and discretion while performing simulations and treatment planning.
Medical Dosimetrist Professional Performance Standards

Standard Two – Self-Assessment

The medical dosimetrist evaluates personal performance.

Rationale

Self-assessment is necessary for personal growth and professional development.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Assesses personal work ethics, behaviors and attitudes.

2. Evaluates performance and recognizes opportunities for educational growth and improvement.

3. Recognizes and applies personal and professional strengths.

4. Participates in professional societies and organizations.

Specific Criteria

None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Professional Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The medical dosimetrist acquires and maintains current knowledge in practice.

Rationale
Advancements in the profession require additional knowledge and skills through education.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Completes education related to practice.
2. Maintains credentials and certification related to practice.
3. Participates in continuing education to maintain and enhance competency and performance.
4. Shares knowledge and expertise with others.

Specific Criteria
None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Professional Performance Standards

Standard Four – Collaboration and Collegiality

The medical dosimetrist promotes a positive and collaborative practice atmosphere with other members of the health care team.

Rationale
To provide quality patient care, all members of the health care team must communicate effectively and work together efficiently.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Shares knowledge and expertise with members of the health care team.
2. Develops collaborative partnerships to enhance quality and efficiency.
3. Promotes understanding of the profession.

Specific Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Interacts with all members of the radiation oncology team.
Medical Dosimetrist Professional Performance Standards

Standard Five – Ethics

The medical dosimetrist adheres to the profession’s accepted ethical standards.

Rationale

Decisions made and actions taken on behalf of the patient are based on a sound ethical foundation.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Provides health care services with respect for the patient’s dignity, age-specific needs and culture.
3. Takes responsibility for decisions made and actions taken.
4. Delivers patient care and service free from bias or discrimination.
5. Respects the patient’s right to privacy and confidentiality.
6. Adheres to the established practice standards of the profession.

Specific Criteria

None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Professional Performance Standards

Standard Six – Research and Innovation

The medical dosimetrist participates in the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge and the advancement of the profession.

Rationale
Scholarly activities such as research, scientific investigation, presentation and publication advance the profession.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reads and evaluates research relevant to the profession.
2. Participates in data collection.
3. Investigates innovative methods for application in practice.
4. Shares information with colleagues through publication, presentation and collaboration.
5. Adopts new best practices.

Specific Criteria
None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Advisory Opinion Statements

Injecting Medication in Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter Lines or Ports with a Power Injector.

Medication Injections by Radiologic Technologists.

Medication Injection Through Existing Vascular Access.

Placement of Personal Radiation Monitoring Devices.
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Medical dosimetrists must demonstrate an understanding of anatomy, physiology, pathology and medical terminology. In addition, comprehensive knowledge of characteristics and clinical relevance of radiation oncology treatment machine and equipment, radiobiology, radiation physics, radiation safety and psychosocial aspects of cancer is required.

Medical dosimetrists must maintain a high degree of accuracy in treatment planning optimization, treatment techniques and positioning. Medical dosimetrists assist the radiation oncologist in localizing the treatment area, generate a treatment plan and actively communicate with the radiation oncology team to enable and ensure the appropriate transfer of information.

Medical dosimetrists are the primary liaison between the radiation oncologist, radiation therapist, and medical physicist. Medical dosimetrists must remain sensitive to the physical and emotional needs of the patient through good communication and patient assessment. Radiation therapy often involves daily treatments extending over several weeks using highly sophisticated equipment. It requires thorough initial planning as well as constant patient care and monitoring. As members of the health care team, medical dosimetrists participate in quality improvement processes and continually assess their professional performance.

Medical dosimetrists think critically and use independent, professional and ethical judgment in all aspects of their work. They engage in continuing education in their area of practice in order to enhance treatment planning skills, radiation safety, public education, knowledge and technical competence.

Education and Certification

Medical dosimetrists prepare for their role on the interdisciplinary team by successfully completing an accredited educational program in Medical Dosimetry and attaining appropriate certification by the Medical Dosimetry Certification Board. Those passing this examination use the credential Certified Medical Dosimetrist, or CMD.
To maintain CMD certification, medical dosimetrists must complete appropriate continuing education requirements to sustain a level of expertise and awareness of changes and advances in practice.

**Overview**

An interdisciplinary team of radiation oncologists, radiation therapists, medical dosimetrists, medical physicists and other support staff plays a critical role in the delivery of health services as new modalities emerge and the need for radiation therapy treatment procedures and treatment planning evolve. A comprehensive procedure list for the medical dosimetrist is impractical because clinical activities vary by practice needs and expertise of the medical dosimetrist. As medical dosimetrists gain more experience, knowledge and clinical competence, the clinical activities for the medical dosimetrist may evolve.

State statute, regulation or lawful community custom may dictate practice parameters. Wherever there is a conflict between these standards and state or local statutes or regulations, the state or local statutes or regulations supersede these standards. A medical dosimetrist should, within the boundaries of all applicable legal requirements and restrictions, exercise individual thought, judgment and discretion in the performance of the procedure.
Medical Dosimetrist Scope of Practice

The scope of practice of the medical imaging and radiation therapy professional includes:

- Receiving, relaying and documenting verbal, written and electronic orders in the patient’s medical record.
- Corroborating patient’s clinical history with procedure, ensuring information is documented and available for use by a licensed independent practitioner.
- Verifying informed consent.
- Assuming responsibility for patient needs during procedures.
- Preparing patients for procedures.
- Applying principles of ALARA to minimize exposure to patient, self and others.
- Performing venipuncture as prescribed by a licensed independent practitioner.
- Starting and maintaining intravenous access as prescribed by a licensed independent practitioner.
- Identifying, preparing and/or administering medications as prescribed by a licensed independent practitioner.
- Evaluating images for technical quality, ensuring proper identification is recorded.
- Identifying and managing emergency situations.
- Providing education.
- Educating and monitoring students and other health care providers.
- Performing ongoing quality assurance activities.

The scope of practice of the medical dosimetrist also includes:

1. Preparing radiation therapy treatment plans as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.
2. Obtaining and incorporating patient data from medical imaging procedures to be used in simulation, treatment planning, treatment delivery and quality assurance.
3. Performing or assisting with patient simulation as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.
4. Performing or assisting with the fabrication of patient immobilization and other treatment devices.

5. Preparing the patient for general or special treatment procedures.

6. Developing treatment strategies leading to optimal treatment plans under the direction of a radiation oncologist.

7. Performing dose calculations.

8. Evaluating treatment plans for accuracy.

9. Transferring and documenting treatment planning data according to departmental policy.

10. Monitoring, under the direction of a radiation oncologist, doses to normal tissues within the irradiated volume to ensure tolerance levels are not exceeded.

11. Participating in brachytherapy treatment planning and delivery.
Medical Dosimetrists Clinical Performance Standards

Standard One – Assessment

The medical dosimetrists collects pertinent data about the patient and the procedure.

Rationale

Information about the patient’s health status is essential in providing appropriate imaging and therapeutic services.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrists:

1. Gathers relevant information from the patient, medical record, significant others and health care providers.

2. Reconfirms patient identification and verifies the procedure requested or prescribed.

3. Reviews the patient’s medical record to verify the appropriateness of a specific examination or procedure.

4. Assesses factors that may contraindicate the procedure, such as medications, patient history, insufficient patient preparation or artifacts.

5. Recognizes signs and symptoms of an emergency.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrists:

1. Reviews patient history for previous therapeutic treatments.

2. Assesses the patient’s need for information and reassurance.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Two – Analysis/Determination

The medical dosimetrist analyzes the information obtained during the assessment phase and develops an action plan for completing the procedure.

Rationale

Determining the most appropriate action plan enhances patient safety and comfort, optimizes diagnostic and therapeutic quality and improves efficiency.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Selects the most appropriate and efficient action plan after reviewing all pertinent data and assessing the patient’s abilities and condition.

2. Employs professional judgment to adapt imaging and therapeutic procedures to improve diagnostic quality and therapeutic outcome.

3. Consults appropriate medical personnel to determine a modified action plan.

4. Determines the need for and selects supplies, accessory equipment, shielding and immobilization devices.

5. Determines the course of action for an emergency or problem situation.

6. Determines that all procedural requirements are in place to achieve a quality diagnostic or therapeutic procedure.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Gathers pertinent data relevant to the treatment planning and delivery process.

2. Recommends the appropriate immobilization devices and positioning aids for simulation and treatment.

3. Participates in reviewing patient treatment parameters and dose records to ensure treatment does not exceed the prescribed dose or normal tissue tolerances.

4. Recommends when to hold treatment until a radiation oncologist is notified.
**Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards**

**Standard Three – Patient Education**

The medical dosimetrist provides information about the procedure and related health issues according to protocol.

**Rationale**

Communication and education are necessary to establish a positive relationship.

**General Stipulation**

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

**General Criteria**

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Verifies that the patient has consented to the procedure and fully understands its risks, benefits, alternatives and follow-up. The medical dosimetrist verifies that written or informed consent has been obtained.

2. Provides accurate explanations and instructions at an appropriate time and at a level the patients and their care providers can understand. Addresses patient questions and concerns regarding the procedure.

3. Refers questions about diagnosis, treatment or prognosis to a licensed independent practitioner.

4. Provides related patient education.

5. Explains precautions regarding administration of medications.

**Specific Criteria**

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Explains the role and function of the medical dosimetrist in the overall treatment course.

2. Reviews the treatment plan with the patient as requested by a radiation oncologist.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Four – Performance

The medical dosimetrist performs the action plan.

Rationale

Quality patient services are provided through the safe and accurate performance of a deliberate plan of action.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Performs procedural timeout.
2. Implements an action plan.
3. Explains each step of the action plan to the patient as it occurs and elicits the cooperation of the patient.
4. Uses an integrated team approach.
5. Modifies the action plan according to changes in the clinical situation.
6. Administers first aid or provides life support.
7. Utilizes accessory equipment.
8. Assesses and monitors the patient’s physical, emotional and mental status.
9. Applies principles of sterile technique.
10. Positions patient for anatomic area of interest, respecting patient ability and comfort.
11. Immobilizes patient for procedure.
12. Monitors the patient for reactions to medications.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Collaborates with the medical physicist and radiation therapist to fabricate individualized immobilization, custom blocks and other beam-modifying devices.
2. Consults with the radiation oncologist regarding an optimal treatment plan for the patient.

3. Collaborates with the radiation therapist, medical physicist and radiation oncologist regarding the simulation process and procedures.

4. Prepares and positions the patient for simulation and treatment using appropriate positioning aids and immobilization devices.

5. Acquires and reviews simulation images with the radiation therapist, medical physicist and radiation oncologist.

6. Develops a treatment plan as directed and prescribed by the radiation oncologist.

7. Adheres to established best practice protocols, guidelines and radiation oncologist directives.

8. Calculates treatment unit parameters and doses to treatment volumes and points of interest.

9. Reviews treatment planning data for accuracy and appropriateness prior to input into the patient’s chart and initial treatment.

10. Develops a manual or computer generated brachytherapy treatment plan as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.

11. Prepares or assists in preparing brachytherapy sources and equipment.

12. Ensures an independent machine-setting check is completed before treatment is delivered.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Five – Evaluation

The medical dosimetrist determines whether the goals of the action plan have been achieved.

Rationale
Careful examination of the procedure is important to determine that expected outcomes have been met.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Evaluates the patient and the procedure to identify variances that may affect the expected outcome.

2. Completes the evaluation process in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.

3. Measures the procedure against established policies, protocols and benchmarks.

4. Identifies exceptions to the expected outcome.

5. Develops a revised action plan to achieve the intended outcome.

6. Communicates revised action plan to appropriate team members.

Specific Criteria
None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Six – Implementation

The medical dosimetrist implements the revised action plan.

Rationale

It may be necessary to make changes to the action plan to achieve the expected outcome.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Bases the revised plan on the patient’s condition and the most appropriate means of achieving the expected outcome.

2. Takes action based on patient and procedural variances.

3. Measures and evaluates the results of the revised action plan.

4. Notifies appropriate health care provider when immediate clinical response is necessary based on procedural findings and patient condition.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reviews and implements treatment field changes indicated on simulation or portal images.

2. Evaluates reports from the clinical staff regarding deviations from standards or treatment plans and makes adjustments as necessary.

3. Develops additional treatment plans to achieve an optimal dose distribution.

4. Adapts procedures to equipment limitations and patient needs.

5. Ensures accuracy in the transfer and documentation of treatment parameters, according to departmental policies.

6. Works with radiation oncologists, medical physicists and radiation therapists to compensate for treatment inaccuracies.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Seven – Outcomes Measurement

The medical dosimetrist reviews and evaluates the outcome of the procedure.

Rationale

To evaluate the quality of care, the medical dosimetrist compares the actual outcome with the expected outcome.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reviews all diagnostic or therapeutic data for completeness and accuracy.

2. Uses evidenced-based practice to determine whether the actual outcome is within established criteria.

3. Evaluates the process and recognizes opportunities for future changes.

Specific Criteria

None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Eight – Documentation

The medical dosimetrist documents information about patient care, the procedure and the final outcome.

Rationale
Clear and precise documentation is essential for continuity of care, accuracy of care and quality assurance.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:
1. Documents diagnostic, treatment and patient data in the medical record in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.
2. Documents exceptions from the established criteria or procedures.
3. Provides pertinent information to authorized individual(s) involved in the patient’s care.
4. Records information used for billing and coding procedures.
5. Archives images or data.
6. Verifies patient consent is documented.
7. Documents procedural timeout.

Specific Criteria
The Medical Dosimetrist:
1. Reports deviations from the standard or planned treatment.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard One – Assessment

The medical dosimetrist collects pertinent information regarding equipment, procedures and the work environment.

Rationale

The planning and provision of safe and effective medical services relies on the collection of pertinent information about equipment, procedures and the work environment.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Determines that services are performed in a safe environment, minimizing potential hazards, in accordance with established guidelines.

2. Confirms that equipment performance, maintenance and operation comply with manufacturer’s specifications.

3. Verifies that protocol and procedure manuals include recommended criteria and are reviewed and revised.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Assesses the environment for any potential radiation hazards.

2. Participates in radiation protection, patient safety, risk management and quality management activities according to departmental policies.
**Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards**

**Standard Two – Analysis/Determination**

The medical dosimetrist analyzes information collected during the assessment phase to determine the need for changes to equipment, procedures or the work environment.

*Rationale*

Determination of acceptable performance is necessary to provide safe and effective services.

**General Stipulation**

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

**General Criteria**

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Assesses services, procedures and environment to meet or exceed established guidelines and adjusts the action plan.

2. Monitors equipment to meet or exceed established standards and adjusts the action plan.

3. Assesses and maintains the integrity of medical supplies such as a lot/expiration, sterility, etc.

**Specific Criteria**

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Verifies the treatment summary and the mathematical accuracy of the prescription.

2. Reviews the treatment record and verifies calculations before and/or after treatment delivery.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The medical dosimetrist informs the patient, public and other health care providers about procedures, equipment and facilities.

Rationale

Quality assurance activities provide valid and reliable information regarding the performance of equipment, materials and processes.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Elicits confidence and cooperation from the patient, the public and other health care providers by providing timely communication and effective instruction.

2. Presents explanations and instructions at the learner’s level of understanding.

3. Educates the patient, public and other health care providers about procedures along with the biological effects of radiation, sound wave or magnetic field and protection.

4. Provides information to patients, health care providers, students and the public concerning the role and responsibilities of individuals in the profession.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Addresses concerns from the patient and significant others about appropriate and essential uses of radiation in treatment of diseases.

2. Assists in developing and producing educational materials for patients and the public regarding radiation therapy treatments.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Four – Performance

The medical dosimetrist performs quality assurance activities.

Rationale

Equipment, materials and processes depend on ongoing quality assurance activities that evaluate performance based on established guidelines.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Maintains current information on equipment, materials and processes.
2. Performs ongoing quality assurance activities.
3. Performs quality control testing of equipment.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Adheres to radiation safety rules and standards.
2. Makes the recommendation to discontinue patient treatment until equipment is operating properly.
3. Demonstrates safe handling, storing and disposal of brachytherapy sources.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Five – Evaluation

The medical dosimetrist evaluates quality assurance results and establishes an appropriate action plan.

Rationale

Equipment, materials and processes depend on ongoing quality assurance activities that evaluate performance based on established guidelines.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Validates quality assurance testing conditions and results.
2. Evaluates quality assurance results.
3. Formulates an action plan.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reviews treatment calculations and ensures the validity of the treatment plan.
2. Ensures treatment parameters have been transferred correctly to the oncology information system.
3. Acquires data necessary to perform accurate patient protocol plans and participates in implementation of the plan.
4. Reviews treatment deviations and assists in determining possible causes and solutions.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Six – Implementation

The medical dosimetrist implements the quality assurance action plan for equipment, materials and processes.

Rationale
Implementation of a quality assurance action plan promotes safe and effective services.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Assists in supporting the quality assurance action plan.
2. Implements the quality assurance action plan.

Specific Criteria
None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Seven – Outcomes Measurement

The medical dosimetrist assesses the outcome of the quality management action plan for equipment, materials and processes.

Rationale
Outcomes assessment is an integral part of the ongoing quality management action plan to enhance diagnostic and therapeutic services.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reviews the implementation process for accuracy and validity.

2. Determines that actual outcomes are within established criteria.

3. Develops and implements a modified action plan.

Specific Criteria
None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Quality Performance Standards

Standard Eight – Documentation

The medical dosimetrist documents quality assurance activities and results.

Rationale

Documentation provides evidence of quality assurance activities designed to enhance safety.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Maintains documentation of quality assurance activities, procedures and results in accordance with established guidelines.

2. Documents in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reports any treatment deviations in accordance with departmental, institutional and national quality assurance guidelines.
Medical Dosimetrist Professional Performance Standards

Standard One – Quality

The medical dosimetrist strives to provide optimal patient care.

Rationale

Patients expect and deserve optimal care during diagnosis and treatment.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Collaborates with others to elevate the quality of care.

2. Participates in ongoing quality assurance programs.

3. Adheres to standards, policies and established guidelines.

4. Applies professional judgment and discretion while performing diagnostic study or treatment.

5. Anticipates and responds to patient needs.

6. Respects cultural variations.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Applies professional judgment and discretion while performing simulations and treatment planning.
Medical Dosimetrist Professional Performance Standards

Standard Two – Self-Assessment

The medical dosimetrist evaluates personal performance.

Rationale

Self-assessment is necessary for personal growth and professional development.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Assesses personal work ethics, behaviors and attitudes.

2. Evaluates performance and recognizes opportunities for educational growth and improvement.

3. Recognizes and applies personal and professional strengths.

4. Participates in professional societies and organizations.

Specific Criteria

None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Professional Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The medical dosimetrist acquires and maintains current knowledge in practice.

Rationale
Advancements in the profession require additional knowledge and skills through education.

General Stipulation
The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria
The medical dosimetrist:

1. Completes education related to practice.
2. Maintains credentials and certification related to practice.
3. Participates in continuing education to maintain and enhance competency and performance.
4. Shares knowledge and expertise with others.

Specific Criteria
None Added.
Medical Dosimetrists Professional Performance Standards

Standard Four – Collaboration and Collegiality

The medical dosimetrists promote a positive and collaborative practice atmosphere with other members of the health care team.

Rationale

To provide quality patient care, all members of the health care team must communicate effectively and work together efficiently.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrists:

1. Shares knowledge and expertise with members of the health care team.

2. Develops collaborative partnerships to enhance quality and efficiency.

3. Promotes understanding of the profession.

Specific Criteria

The medical dosimetrists:

1. Interacts with all members of the radiation oncology team.
Medical Dosimetrist Professional Performance Standards

Standard Five – Ethics

The medical dosimetrist adheres to the profession’s accepted ethical standards.

Rationale

Decisions made and actions taken on behalf of the patient are based on a sound ethical foundation.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Provides health care services with respect for the patient’s dignity, age-specific needs and culture.
3. Takes responsibility for decisions made and actions taken.
4. Delivers patient care and service free from bias or discrimination.
5. Respects the patient’s right to privacy and confidentiality.
6. Adheres to the established practice standards of the profession.

Specific Criteria

None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Professional Performance Standards

Standard Six – Research and Innovation

The medical dosimetrist participates in the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge and the advancement of the profession.

Rationale

Scholarly activities such as research, scientific investigation, presentation and publication advance the profession.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The medical dosimetrist:

1. Reads and evaluates research relevant to the profession.
2. Participates in data collection.
3. Investigates innovative methods for application in practice.
4. Shares information with colleagues through publication, presentation and collaboration.
5. Adopts new best practices.

Specific Criteria

None Added.
Medical Dosimetrist Advisory Opinion Statements

Injecting Medication in Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter Lines or Ports with a Power Injector.

Medication Injections by Radiologic Technologists.

Medication Injection Through Existing Vascular Access.

Placement of Personal Radiation Monitoring Devices.