New Rule Changes Effective October 1, 2017

Proposed changes to the North Carolina Regulations for Protection Against Radiation by the NC Radiation Protection Commission were approved by the N.C. Rules Review Commission and will be effective on October 1, 2017.

Who is impacted?

This is an additional Rule, .0611, added to the 10A NCAC 15 .0600 Section. This new Rule sets requirements for the use of Computed Tomography (CT) for human diagnostic use only. The uses of Cone Beam CT, Veterinary CT, CT Simulation and CT attenuation correction are exempt from this Rule. This Rule does not establish or increase a fee.

What has changed?

The .0611 Rule was added to cover all human diagnostic use of CT machines. The new .0611 Rule can be found at https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dhhr/rules/2017/0913_15_0611.pdf

Computed Tomography (CT) delivers high quality imaging with significant benefits to patients. This Rule ensures CT imaging encompasses recommendations of the American College of Radiology (ACR) and is compatible with the Food and Drug Administration’s Federal Regulations found in 21 CFR 1020.33. The Rules in 10A NCAC 15 are not specific to the use of CT equipment making it difficult to determine which Rules apply for registrants and regulators. Problems identified with CT scans include a lack of quality assurance (QA) and/or lack of administrative controls. The Rule implements QA and training requirements, already being used by many NC facilities, and simplifies compliance with regulations. The Rule reduces the hazards associated with the use of CT x-ray machines whether the facility is accredited or not.

Where can additional information be found?

The history of these Rule changes can be found at: https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dhhr/rules/rps20170611.html

The NC Regulations for Protection Against Radiation can be found at http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac.asp?folderName=\Title%2010A%20-%20Health%20and%20Human%20Services\Chapter%2015%20-%20Radiation%20Protection.

The .0611 Rule addition to Section .0600 will be posted after October 1, 2017. The Radiation Protection Section does not print copies of regulations for distribution. You may print a copy from the link above or maintain access to a copy by computer or other electronic devices.

An additional resource is the CT checklist attached in this email. This document will be coming soon to our website http://www.ncradiation.net/Xray/XRAY.htm. This document is provided to you through collaboration with the X-ray Surveillance Committee of the Radiation Protection Commission.