



ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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July 3, 2008

Larry W. Greer, M.D.
9 Muirfield Lane
Huntsville, AL 35802

Dear Dr. Greer:

The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners, at its meeting June 25, 2008, considered your request for a Board Opinion regarding the use of fluoroscopy by radiology technicians in obtaining images for interpretation by a radiologist.

It is the opinion of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners that a radiology technician may only perform fluoroscopy with a physician physically present in the room during the performance of the procedure. The Board's opinion reflects and supports the policies and guidelines of the American College of Radiology and the Alabama Department of Public Health Department of Radiation Control.

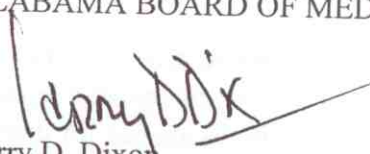
The following is the policy statement of the American College of Radiology: *The American College of Radiology approves the practice of certified and/or licensed radiologic technologists performing fluoroscopy in a facility or department as a positioning or localizing procedure only, and then only if monitored by a supervising physician who is personally and immediately available*. There must be a written policy or process for the positioning or localizing procedure that is approved by the medical director of the facility or department/service and that includes written authority or policies and processes for designating radiologic technologists who may perform such procedures. (1987, 1997, 2007 - ACR Resultion 12-m) * For purposes of this guideline, "personally and immediately available" is defined in the manner of the "personal supervision" provision of CMS - a physician must be in attendance in the room during the performance of the procedure. (April 19, 2001).*

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In addition, Administrative Rule 420-3-26-.06(3)b of the Alabama Department of Public Health states, *Persons shall not be exposed to the useful beam except for healing arts purposes, each exposure of which has been authorized by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts.* In July 2006, the Department of Radiation Control provided the Alabama Academy of Radiology with the following interpretation of Administrative Rule 420-3-26-.06(3)b: *An authorization for fluoroscopy cannot be given to anyone because a doctor must be present at all times to justify each additional exposure. It is not similar to ordering radiographs as radiographic examinations consist of a routine (known) number of exposures each consisting of a known quantity of radiation.*

Dr. Greer, the Board believes that adherence to these guidelines is in the best interest of patient safety. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the above information.

Yours sincerely,
ALABAMA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS


Larry D. Dixon
Executive Director

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