

Rule X. Minimum Standards for Qualifications, Training and Education for Unlicensed Personnel Exposing Patients to Ionizing Radiation

(Amended April 28, 2016, Effective June 30, 2016)

Pursuant to section 12-35-202, C.R.S., a licensed dentist or dental hygienist shall not allow an unlicensed person to operate a machine source of ionizing radiation or to administer radiation to any patient unless the person meets the requirements of this rule and any applicable rules of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. These requirements apply to all persons in dental settings other than hospitals and similar facilities licensed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment pursuant to section 25-1.5-103, C.R.S.

A. All unlicensed dental personnel who expose patients to ionizing radiation must:

1. Be a minimum of 18 years of age.
2. Successfully complete minimum safety education and training for operating machine sources of ionizing radiation and administering such radiation to patients.

B. Such education and training shall include at least 8.5 hours in the following areas, but not limited to:

1. Dental nomenclature - 0.5 hour;
2. Machine operation exposure factors - 2 hours;
3. Operator and patient safety - 1 hour; and
4. Practical or clinical experience in:
 - a. Intra/extra - oral techniques for exposing radiographic images - 4 hours;
 - b. Appropriate film handling and storage when it applies - 0.25 hour;
 - c. Appropriate processing procedures - 0.5 hour; and
 - d. Appropriate patient record documentation for radiographic images - 0.25 hour.

C. Written verification of education and training shall be provided by the sponsoring agency, educational institution or licensee to each participant upon completion. This written verification shall also be signed by the unlicensed person; 1 copy shall be kept in each unlicensed person's employment record located at the employment site, the other kept by the unlicensed person. Written verification of completion of education and training must include:

1. Name of agency, educational institution or licensee who provided such education and training;
2. Verification of hours;
3. Date of completion; and
4. Exposure techniques for which education and training have been provided, i.e. bitewings, periapicals, occlusals, and panoramic.

D. Satisfaction of the education and training requirements may be achieved by successfully completing 1 of the following:

1. Programs approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education, the Private Occupational School Division, or the equivalent in any other state. Such programs shall include the education and training as specified in section B of this rule.
2. On the job training by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist providing a Board-approved educational module which complies with section B of this rule is used as the basis for such training.
3. The "Radiation Health and Safety" (RHS) or "Certified Dental Assistant" (CDA) examination administered by the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB).

E. All licensees must insure that newly hired untrained dental personnel comply with these rules within 3 months of becoming employed in a capacity in which they will be delegated the task of exposing radiographic images.

F. It shall be the duty of each licensee to ensure that:

1. Tasks are assigned only to those individuals who have successfully completed the education and training and meet the qualifications for those tasks, which are being delegated; and
2. The properly executed verification documentation of all unlicensed personnel who are operating machine sources of ionizing radiation and exposing such radiation be submitted to the Colorado Dental Board upon request.