

FLUOROSCOPY TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- **2008**, radiologic technologists began reporting PAs who used ionizing radiation to the DPH. Even though PAs practice through physician delegation, because the laws governing ionizing radiation did not specifically mention PAs, the law was not clear on whether such services could be delegated to PAs.
- ConnAPA began working with various stakeholders, including the CSRT, RSC, DPH, and CHA to build consensus for changing the law. Eventually, all stakeholders agreed to a compromise allowing PAs who had completed additional training to use fluoroscopy.
- **Spring 2009**, a bill was passed, setting deadline of October 1, 2011. Prior to the deadline, PAs who had been using fluoroscopy as delegated by a supervising physician could continue to do so. After October 1, 2011, PAs would need to complete a 40-hour course in radiation safety, radiation physics, and radiation biology followed by an examination. The statute requires the DPH to designate an acceptable exam, and once the exam has been designated, but before October 1, 2011, the statute allows PAs to take the exam without completing the 40-hour course. If they pass, they are then exempt from taking the 40-hour course, even after October 1, 2011.
- While the CT legislation did not name a specific course or exam, all parties informally agreed that the DPH would use the AAPA-ASRT course and exam to satisfy the requirements of CT state law. One reason the deadline was set at October 1, 2011, which seemed like the distant future at the time, was to allow time for the national consensus curriculum and subsequent examination to be developed.
- **December 2009**, AAPA and ASRT officially agreed to the consensus curriculum. Importantly, the curriculum also called for 40 hours of clinical experience in which fluoroscopy was used.
- With the curriculum set, a committee was immediately formed to develop the exam. This committee consisted of experts from across the country. They held weekend meetings approximately once every other month, and supplemented those meetings with conference calls as needed.
- **December 2010**, fluoroscopy exam finalized, slightly ahead of the anticipated schedule.
- **March, 2011**, ARRTs' Board of Trustees formally approved the exam
- As soon as that happened, ConnAPA worked with the DPH to contact ARRT and make the exam available to PAs in CT as soon as possible, consistent with state law. When DPH contacted ARRT, they were told that even though CT state law specifically authorized PAs to take the exam without taking the course if they did so prior to October 1, 2011, ARRT would not allow any individual to take the exam without first completing the course required by the AAPA-ASRT consensus curriculum/course. ARRT also states that PAs cannot go back further than March 2011 to log their fluoro cases.
- **July 2011**. ConnAPA successful in extending deadline from October 1, 2011 to July 1, 2012.
- **December 2011** – first fluoroscopy course starts
- **May 2012**. DPH and ARRT reach contractual agreement re fluoroscopy exam.
- **May 2012**. ARRT acquiesces on former position, in that, they will now allow PAs who meet the grandfathering criteria in state law (PAs who have used fluoroscopy prior to October 1, 2011) to take the fluoro exam without requiring that they first take the course (both the 40-hr didactic course and documentation of 40 clinical hours in fluoro cases). ConnAPA *strongly* recommends that all PAs who meet the grandfathering criteria take the fluoro course due to the exhaustive nature of the course curriculum, from which the actual exam is based on. Keep in mind that PAs who hadn't utilized fluoroscopy prior to October 1, 2011 do NOT meet the grandfathering criteria and *must* successfully complete the course to become eligible to sit for the fluoro exam.
- **May 2012**. Letters sent to PAs eligible to sit for exam.
- **June 2012**. Legislation that ConnAPA worked on (included as Section 47 of H.B. 5514) was signed into law by Governor Malloy, thus extending the deadline from July 1, 2012 to September 1, 2012.
- **Curriculum** –
- http://www.aapa.org/the_pa_profession/federal_and_state_affairs/resources/item.aspx?id=1816&terms=asrt
- **Fluoro course** – www.aapa.org/fluoroscopy Specific questions should be directed to Sharon Kulesz (skulesz@aapa.org; 571-319-4413) or Heiwote Aberra (haberra@aapa.org; 571-319-4336).
- **Important note**. Save all documentation personally and also have employer keep copy as well. The DPH will not be keeping these records, but they can request them if action is brought against any PA.
- **Abbreviations**. AAPA = American Academy of Physician Assistants. ARRT = American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. ASRT = American Society of Radiologic Technologists. CHA = CT Hospital Association. ConnAPA = Connecticut Academy of PAs. CSRT = Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists. DPH = Department of Public Health. RSC = Radiologic Society of CT.

Respectfully submitted,
Justin Champagne