

The Kowalski Group, L.L.C.

53 Russ Street, 2nd Floor

Hartford, CT 06106

860-246-4346

FAX 860-548-1947

www.thekowalskigroup.com

Government Relations

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TO: ConnAPA Membership

FR: Linda Kowalski
The Kowalski Group, LLC

RE: Fluoroscopy Legislation

The General Assembly finished its 2009 session late last night. About an hour before adjournment, they took final action to pass a bill that relates to Physician Assistants and Fluoroscopy. The legislation is HB 6678, entitled "*An Act Concerning Revisions to Department of Public Health Licensing Statutes*". The bill will now go to the Governor for her signature—she is expected to sign it.

Without this bill, we faced the real possibility that the Department of Public Health would decide this procedure was beyond the scope of a Physician Assistant since they are not licensed to use ionizing radiation.

Earlier this session, we reached an agreement with the Radiological Technologists on this issue. The agreement calls for Physician Assistants to take and pass an examination on radiation safety issues no later than September 30, 2011. After that, Physician Assistants who wish to use ionizing radiation will need to take 40 hours of courses on the issue and pass the examination. I want to acknowledge the key role played by State Rep. Melissa Olson in chairing the working group that developed this compromise. Melissa performed a tremendous service here and warrants the thanks of all ConnAPA members. Tricia Marriott also served as a member of the working group and contributed significantly to the process.

The Department of Public Health is given responsibility for prescribing an approved examination, and we will work with them to see that this is implemented in quick fashion. Passage of this legislation is good for patients and is good for members of your profession. I want to close by thanking ConnAPA members who took the time to contact their legislators in support of it.

PAs who currently use fluoroscopy may continue to do so

until October 1, 2011.

Beginning on October 1, 2011, PAs who use fluoroscopy will be required to complete a course that includes 40 hours of training on radiation safety and other relevant topics, and to pass an examination*.

Up until October 1, 2011, any PA may challenge the exam **without having taken the required 40 hour training course**. If you challenge the exam and pass, you will not need to take the training course.

This bill also allows PAs to position and utilize a mini C-arm in conjunction with fluoroscopic procedures.

* Details of the 40-hour training course and the required examination, such as who will administer them and how PAs will document completion, have not yet been determined. These issues need to be worked out through the regulatory process, which is one of the reasons that these requirements do not become effective until October 1, 2011.