

Important Information on Fluoroscopy for Physician Assistants in Connecticut

We are reaching out to you as a licensed Physician Assistant in Connecticut and have obtained your name and address from the public data on file at the Department of Public Health. We are not sharing this information with any other group. Since the following information is very important, this message is being sent out via email and/or postal mail to all PAs in Connecticut, regardless of ConnAPA membership. Members of ConnAPA have already been apprised of some of the details below through our newsletter and by email correspondence, which is one of the advantages of being a ConnAPA member. ConnAPA works tirelessly for *all* PAs in the state, not just its members; so it's critical to support ConnAPA by becoming a member. You can join here: http://www.connapa.org/membership/order_form.php.

As many of you know, ConnAPA worked very diligently in 2008-2009 to get a fluoroscopy bill passed in the spring of 2009 allowing PAs to continue to be able to use fluoroscopy. This legislation was successful, but we had to go back to the legislature this year to request an extension of the exam deadline. Originally, the law set a deadline of October 1, 2011, in which all PAs in the state would have had to have taken and passed the fluoroscopy exam in order to continue using fluoroscopy. Despite the best efforts of all the stakeholders involved, the process of creating a curriculum, course, and exam in time for this deadline proved arduous and took longer than initially expected. After monitoring this situation carefully over the past couple of years, ConnAPA came to the conclusion that the deadline would not be able to be met. Given this, ConnAPA sought the help of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), the Connecticut State Medical Society, the Connecticut Hospital Association, and the Radiological Society of Connecticut. Together, these organizations discussed our rationalization for the deadline extension with the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Public Health Committee, and the Connecticut Society of Radiologic Technologists. **Ultimately, ConnAPA was successful in getting a nine-month extension to move the deadline from October 1, 2011 to July 1, 2012.**

If you are a PA who works in Connecticut and uses (or will use) fluoroscopy you NEED to know the following information!! The deadline for next year is coming fast; there will not be any additional extensions. If you use fluoroscopy, or plan on doing so in the future, you must take the course and examination and pass both by July 1, 2012.

Fluoroscopy Law – See page 57 of the document found here:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/ACT/Pa/pdf/2011PA-00242-R00HB-06618-PA.pdf>

Key changes to the law were, obviously, the deadline being moved from October 1, 2011 to **July 1, 2012** but also the requirement that PAs have to complete the course prior to sitting for the exam and that PAs need to document 40 hours of supervised clinical time in a fluoroscopic suite. PAs who are currently using fluoroscopy prior to October 1, 2011 can continue to do so but will still need to take the course and pass the exam by July 1, 2012. Please note that PAs who haven't been using fluoroscopy prior to Oct. 1, 2011 or graduates of a PA program after that time will not be able to engage in the use of fluoroscopy until they have taken the course and passed the exam.

Fluoroscopy Curriculum – The AAPA and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) developed a curriculum for PAs to sufficiently train them to safely use fluoroscopy and to understand the effects of radiation. This AAPA/ASRT project was a *national* endeavor; that is, it wasn't created specifically to satisfy CT statute because the two organizations knew that the fluoroscopy issue was pertinent to many other states as well. This curriculum also describes the required 40-hr clinical component (including a fluoroscopic device orientation check-off list) that our state based its law on. Plan ahead and start documenting these clinical hours now! You don't need to wait to take the course in order to start accruing and documenting these hours and filling out the paper work. You can access the curriculum here:

http://www.aapa.org/uploadedFiles/content/Common/Files/fluoroscopy_educational_framework_ASRT_AAPA_12-09.pdf

Fluoroscopy Exam – The test has been created and was approved by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) in March 2011. The DPH will be approving the exam for use in CT. This will need to be taken and passed prior to July 1, 2012 in order for PAs to continue using fluoroscopy.

Any further questions regarding the fluoroscopy issue can certainly be answered by ConnAPA.

Thank you,

Justin Champagne
Immediate Past President, ConnAPA

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