



Positions Statements Related to Licensed X-Ray Machine Operator Issued by the Radiography Examining Board

WHAT IS CONSIDERED THE PRACTICE OF RADIOGRAPHY?

The practice of radiography means the imaging of anatomic structures produced by the application of x-rays to the human body for the purpose of medical diagnosis. This includes operation of *all* x-ray emitting devices such as computed tomography, mammography, fluoroscopy, and general diagnostic imaging.

Bone densitometry, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), sonography, nuclear medicine, and radiation therapy treatment planning are not included under [Chap. 462, Stats.](#)

WHAT IS A RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST?

A radiographer or radiologic technologist is person who has completed an approved course of study equivalent to the standards adopted by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) or a regionally accredited college or university radiography and the approved national examination. A person who has completed these requirements is eligible for licensure and may practice radiography and use the title radiographer.

WHAT IS A LIMITED X-RAY MACHINE OPERATOR (LXMO)?

LXMO is a person who has completed an approved course of study no less stringent than the standards adopted by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) and passed the limited scope examination. A person who has completed these requirements is eligible for a permit to practice as limited x-ray machine operator and use the title.

WHAT PROCEDURES ARE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF A LIMITED MACHINE X-RAY OPERATOR?

A limited x-ray machine operator permit shall authorize the holder to perform static radiography of one or more of the following:

1. The thorax, lungs, and ribs.
2. The upper and lower extremities, including the pectoral girdle but excluding the hip and pelvis, skull and abdomen.
3. The foot, ankle, and lower leg.
4. The cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine.

Applicants can apply to any individual or combination of the modules, which are relevant to their areas of practice. For example: If an applicant performs upper and lower extremity radiographs only, the applicant need not prepare and apply for the modules that contain lungs and thorax, ribs, lumbar spine.

HOW DO I KNOW WHETHER I NEED A RADIOGRAPHY LICENSE OR LXMO PERMIT?

A license to practice radiography authorizes the licensee to perform a full range of diagnostic radiographic procedures. A LXMO permit authorizes the permit holder to operate x-ray equipment for diagnostic purposes on limited areas of the body, categorized in the modules listed above.

If you are ARRT certified, or will soon qualify for an ARRT certificate, you should apply for a radiography license. If you are taking radiographs, but you are not a student or ARRT certified, you should apply for the LXMO permit.

IS FLUOROSCOPY WITHIN THE SCOPE OF A LIMITED X-RAY MACHINE OPERATOR?

No, the practice of a limited x-ray machine operator does not include fluoroscopy.

HOW IS A LXMO APPLICANT NOTIFIED OF THEIR EXAMINATION ELIGIBILITY?

Upon submission of a complete application, contingent upon meeting all minimum requirements, a LXMO applicant is notified by the Department of their eligibility to sit for the Wisconsin Limited Scope of Practice in Radiography examination. In order to sit for the examination applicants will be required to register directly with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and pay the ARRT the required testing fee.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A LICENSE OR PERMIT IN WISCONSIN?

Anyone who operates a device that utilizes x-rays for human medical diagnosis is required to hold a license to practice radiography or a permit as a limited X-Ray machine operator (LXMO) unless exempted (see below). This is pursuant to [Chap. 462, Stats.](#)

ARE THERE EXEMPTIONS TO THE LICENSURE/PERMIT REQUIREMENT?

Yes. This does not apply to a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor, dentist, dental hygienist, a podiatrist who takes the images directly, a person directly supervised by a chiropractor who has completed a training program approved by the Chiropractic Examining Board or a person directly supervised by a podiatrist who has completed a training program approved by the Podiatrists Affiliated Credentialing Board.

WHAT ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WHO OPERATE PET/CT AND SPECT/CT?

This specialized imaging modality is covered under [s. DHS 157.80, Wis. Admin. Code](#), and is not included in [Chap 462, Stats](#). If, however, the CT scanner is operated for diagnostic purposes, the operator must hold a radiography license.

ARE THERE CONTINUING EDUCATION (CEU) REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL?

Renewal of an LXMO permit requires 12 units of continuing education for the 2 year renewal period.

WHAT DO I NEED TO RETAIN FOR PROOF OF CONTINUING EDUCATION (CEU)?

Retain certificates that are received after educational activities including name of course, name of person attending course, course number and date. These should be kept at least 3 years in the event of an audit of credits acquired is performed.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN A LXMO PERMIT?

The Radiography Examining Board may grant an LXMO permit to a person who is at least 18 years of age, holds a high school diploma or equivalent, pays a fee, passes the Wisconsin limited scope examination, and completes a Board-approved course of study provided under the auspices of a program that is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). In Wisconsin, only JRCERT accredited programs may provide Board-approved coursework to satisfy the educational requirement for a LXMO permit. Such may include: radiation protection, anatomy and physiology, radiographic positioning and technique, and image critique.

A list of JRCERT accredited programs may be found at the JRCERT website at <http://www.jrcert.org/>.

IS BONE DENSITOMETRY WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF RADIOGRAPHY?

The practice of radiography does not include bone densitometry.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET MY LICENSE/PERMIT AFTER APPLICATION IS SENT?

After all items have been received and approved, the Department may issue the license or permit within 7 to 10 business days. Common reasons for a lag in application processing include, high application volumes, failure to submit all required application materials, and board review of prior disciplinary or criminal history. A person can check the status of their license or permit application on-line at <http://drl.wi.gov>. If your application is complete and you have not received your license after 10 business days, please contact the Department, see [Contact Us](#).

CAN I BEGIN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING A LICENSE OR PERMIT WHILE STILL IN SCHOOL?

Yes. You may begin the application process prior to meeting all the requirements for licensure. To speed the issuance of licensure or a permit, the Board recommends that those interested in obtaining a license or permit begin the application process approximately 6 months prior to graduation or completion of your program.

HOW OFTEN DO I NEED TO RENEW A LICENSE OR PERMIT?

The license and permit is good for a period of two years which is renewable on even years. If you have been granted a license or permit on or after March 1, 2012 or before September 1, 2012 you are not required to renew until September 1, 2014.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INSURING THAT LIMITED X-RAY MACHINE OPERATORS ARE PROPERLY LICENSED?

Each individual who practices is individually responsible for maintaining licensure in good standing.

Licensed professionals who hire or utilize the services of a limited x-ray machine operator are reminded that employment or delegation to persons who are not properly credentialed may constitute aiding and abetting unlicensed practice. Therefore, licensed professionals who knowingly or recklessly hire or utilize the services of uncredentialed persons may be found to have violated a rule or law, substantially related to their own profession.

IF AN APPLICANT FOR THE TRANSITIONAL LXMO PERMIT PASSED THE CORE EXAMINATION MODULE PRIOR TO MARCH 1, 2012, BUT DID NOT PASS ONE OR MORE OF THE ANATOMICAL AREA MODULES, MUST THE APPLICANT RETAKE THE CORE MODULE AND REQUIRED COURSEWORK FOR THE CORE MODULE AS WELL AS COURSES THAT ADDRESS THE FAILED MODULES?

No. Applicants who passed the core examination module prior to March 1, 2012, need education and reexamination only in those areas in which the applicant was not previously successful. Applicants for transitional LXMO permits who passed the core module, but failed one or more anatomical area modules, are not required to re-take the core module, nor are the applicants required to take course work concerning the core module.

IF THE APPLICANT FAILED THE CORE MODULE PRIOR TO MARCH 1, 2012, BUT PASSED ONE OR MORE ANATOMICAL AREA MODULE, MUST THE APPLICANT TAKE COURSEWORK AND SUBMIT TO REEXAMINATION ON CORE ISSUES?

Applicants for a transitional LXMO permit who did not pass the core module by March 1, 2012, are ineligible for transitional permits and must complete all requirements for non-transitional permits. If an applicant failed the core module prior to March 1, 2012, the applicant must:

1. Take approved coursework on core principles;
2. Pass the core examination module;
3. Take approved coursework on anatomical areas; and
4. Pass anatomical area modules in which the applicant intends to practice.

If an applicant for a transitional permit failed the core examination module, the applicant will not get credit for any other module the applicant may have passed.