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Mammography Training Checklist

Our checklist is for people who hold an ARRT® R.T.(R)® certification and registration.

To sit for the ARRT® mammography exam, you need to meet both MQSA and ARRT® requirements.

Technically, you do not have to be ARRT® certified and registered to perform mammography, but you must be a licensed general radiographer (CRT, GMR) in a state with licensing, such as the California Department of Health, or other national credentialing body. However, a lot of facilities will require ARRT® certification and registration in order to work in mammography. Check with your state licensing board or facility to determine their requirements for performing mammography.

MQSA Requirements

- Complete 40 hours of initial training in the following areas:
 - Breast Anatomy & Physiology
 - Positioning & Compression
 - Quality Assurance/Quality Control
 - Imaging Patients with Breast Implants
 - At least 8 of the 40 hours must come from the modality to be used (this will be digital mammography) – digital breast tomosynthesis is also included with the deluxe package *only*

Our training packages cover all subjects. More information and online ordering are found [here](#).

- Complete 25 examinations mandated by the MQSA under the direct supervision of the qualified instructor. If you do not want to do all 40 hours, you can use these exams to make up hours, up to 12.5 hours. You can do exams and your educational hours at the same time if your facility permits (see California exception below).

California Technologists: you must sit for the state examination *after* you complete the 40 hours of education and *before* you can complete *any* patient examination.

ARRT® Requirements

Note: you must meet MQSA requirements before completing the ARRT® requirements.

- Complete 16 structured education hours. You must have at least one hour in each area of the Mammography content specifications: Patient Care, Image Production, and Procedures. You can use the courses as you used for MQSA requirements if they fulfill the ARRT® requirements.

- ❑ Complete 75 additional examinations. These are **in addition to** any examinations required or suggested by the MQSA and should cover the following:
 - Patient Preparation/Education
 - Provide for patient comfort and cooperation by familiarizing patient with the equipment and procedure, stressing the need for compression, and by providing general psychological support.
 - Solicit and record patient clinical history relevant to the performance and interpretation of the mammographic examination.
 - Document location of lumps, scars, moles, etc. by means of radiopaque markers on breast and/or diagram on clinical information sheet.
 - Respond to patient questions on BSE, CBE, patient dosage, possible need for additional projections, ACS and ACR guidelines for screening mammography, and other breast imaging procedures.
 - Mammographic Imaging
 - Select equipment appropriate to the patient and the examination to be performed (e.g., compression paddles, magnification stand).
 - Adjust exposure factors, as needed (e.g., implanted devices, augmentation, post-radiation changes).
 - Position patient and equipment to acquire views specified per department protocol or requisition.
 - Evaluate the images to assure that they contain proper identification and labeling and are of diagnostic quality

- ❑ Participate in quality control activities according to the 2018 ACR Digital Mammography Quality Control Manual/manufacture's QC recommendations.
 - Phantom Image Quality (10)
 - Compression Thickness Indicator (5)
 - Visual Checklist (5)
 - Acquisition Workstation Monitor QC (5)
 - Radiologist's Workstation Monitor QC (2)
 - Compression Force (2)
 - Facility QC Review (1)
 - Repeat Analysis (1)
 - Review of Medical Physicist's Annual Survey Report (1) – includes Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR), Contrast-to-Noise Ratio (CNR), Modulation Transfer Function (MTF), manufacturer detector calibration, artifact evaluation, flat field, as applicable.

- ❑ Review at least 10 mammographic examinations with a MQSA qualified interpreting physician for breast anatomy, pathology, and image quality, and establish corrective action per EQUIP regulations.

- ❑ Observe, assist with, or participate in at least four of the following procedures:
 - Needle localization (wire, radioactive seed, magnetic seed, RFID)
 - Localization imaging (post-placement)
 - Surgical specimen imaging
 - Breast MRI
 - Breast ultrasound (diagnostic imaging, biopsy, or FNA, or cyst aspiration)

- Stereotactic biopsy with clip placement
- Stereotactic specimen imaging
- Breast implant imaging
- Tissue marker clip placement
- Diagnostic mammogram
- Recall from a screening mammogram

Apply to take the ARRT® examination within two years of starting this training!