

You do not have to be ARRT certified to perform mammography, but a facility may prefer a certification or want the technologist to be actively working towards one. All that is needed to perform mammography is to comply with MQSA requirements (see #2 below).

In order to pursue your ARRT post primary certification in mammography and to sit for the exam, you need to:

- Be a registered R.T. and have never worked in mammography before
- Complete 40 hours of initial training mandated by the MQSA under the supervision of a qualified instructor. This training can be home study and should be 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)

If you do not want to do all 40 hours in classes, or need to make up some hours, up to 12.5 hours may come from mammography examinations. Keeping a time log of these exams, if you so choose to do them, is helpful.

Our Initial Training Package covers all subjects. More information and online ordering is found [here](#).

Initial Training Package

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|---|-------------------|
| Mammography & Minorities | 16 |
| Breast Implants & Quality Assurance | 8.5 |
| Introduction to Digital Mammography | 8 |
| Breast Anatomy & Pathology in Mammography | <u>8</u> |
| | 40.5 hours |

Courses may be completed in any order. This is a *suggested* order:

1. Breast Anatomy & Pathology in Mammography
 2. Mammography & Minorities
 3. Introduction to Digital Mammography
 4. Breast Implants & Quality Assurance
- Complete 25 examinations mandated by the MQSA under the direct supervision of the qualified instructor. This **does not** include any additional exam time used toward the 40 hour educational requirement.
 - For the ARRT post-primary certificate, 16 structured educational hours must be obtained in the three areas outlined in the *Mammography Content Specifications*: Patient Care (patient

interactions and management), Image Production (equipment operation and quality assurance), and Procedures (anatomy, physiology, and pathology and positioning and procedures). From January 1st 2016 to December 31st, 2017, you only have to demonstrate 16 hours related to mammography. Beginning January 1st, 2018, at least one hour of the 16 must come from each area, with the remainder to be distributed as the technologist wishes. Your courses used for MQSA requirements can also be used towards this requirement.

- Complete 75 additional examinations as required by the ARRT. 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 Procedure
 - Select equipment appropriate to the patient and the examination to be performed (e.g., image receptors, grids, compression plates).
 - Select exposure factors based upon breast tissue density, patient's age, numerical compression scale and equipment characteristics.
 - Document breast imaged and projection used.
 - Position patient and equipment to provide projections specified by department protocol or requisition form.
 - Evaluate the images to assure that they contain proper identification and are of diagnostic quality
- Participate in quality control activities.
 - Interpretation workstation (5)
 - Monitoring Cleaning (5)
 - Phantom Images (5)
 - Artifact Evaluation (Flat field, detector calibration) (5) *FFDM-DR only!*
 - Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR), Contrast-to-Noise Ratio (CNR), Modulation Transfer Function (MTF), as required by the manufacturer (5)
 - Compression Force (2)
 - Repeat Analysis (2)
 - Visual Checklist (2)
 - Review of Medical Physicist's Annual Survey Report (1)

- Review at least 10 mammographic examinations with a MQSA qualified interpreting physician to evaluate radiographic technique, positioning, breast anatomy, and pathology.
- Observe, assist with, or participate in at least four of the following procedures:
 - Needle localization
 - Breast MRI
 - Breast ultrasound: imaging, biopsy, or FNA, or cyst aspiration
 - Stereotactic procedure
 - Breast implant imaging
 - Ductography/galactography
 - Tissue marker clip placement
 - Diagnostic mammogram
 - Recall from a screening mammogram
- Apply to take the ARRT examination within the next two years!