



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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September 9, 2016

Mr. John Hageman, MS, CHP
Chairman
Texas Radiation Advisory Board

Dear Mr. Hageman:

Thank you for your letter dated April 12, 2016, in which you expressed the opinion of the members of the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) related to the fluoroscopy training requirements of 25 Texas Administrative Code, Section 289.227(m)(9)(E). I understand that TRAB supports the full implementation of this section.

I have reviewed your position statement and letter, and have engaged in extensive discussions with internal staff, affected external agencies, and registrants. Based on these deliberations, I have directed the Department's Radiation Control Program staff to proceed with a language change in the rule that will modify the currently written requirement to a strong recommendation. In the rule, "shall" will be replaced by "should".

As you noted in your letter, many institutions and facilities in the state have already instituted this training as a facility requirement and there appears to be movement among practicing physicians to acquire the training. As such, this meets the Department's objective to promote voluntary compliance with best practices rather than by adding regulatory burdens that are not needed to accomplish patient and staff safety goals. Department inspectors will continue to encourage radiation safety officers to ensure that technicians and practitioners in their facilities demonstrate competency in this modality as a way to improve patient and staff radiation safety.

I sincerely thank you for fulfilling TRAB's responsibility to advise the agency on matters of policy related to radiation control issues. I look forward to continued collaboration with TRAB as new issues arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hellerstedt", followed by a stylized flourish.

John Hellerstedt, MD
Commissioner
Department of State Health Services