

**FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FOR
COMPUTERIZED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) OPERATORS**

QUESTION 1: How is experience documented for CT operators if the experience is before July 1, 2005?

ANSWER: Documents such as attestation forms, or other statements that the operator has met the minimum requirements in Part 2, Appendix 2E with signatures and included with the Application for Registration for Computed Tomography Operator, Form R-95. Proof must include 60 hours of didactic, 480 hours of clinical training, and 10 procedures for each category. The signature must be someone who can verify the experience. The experience for the attestation form is based on work experience in three (3) of the last five (5) years.

QUESTION 2: What information should be included on the attestation forms?

ANSWER: The attestation forms should include a statement about past experience as outlined in Part 2, Appendix 2E. This includes 60 hours of didactic, 480 hours of clinical training, and 10 procedures for each category. A signature of the person who is attesting to their own experience before July 1, 2005 and a signature of someone who can verify the experience should also be on the attestation form.

QUESTION 3: Do CT technologists need to register with the Department if that individual is already certified by the ARRT?

ANSWER: No, operators who are ARRT(CT), ARRT(T), ARRT(N), CNMT are not required to register with the Department. A copy of the CT certification must be kept on file at the place of employment. Department approved CT operators must maintain their ARRT registry.

QUESTION 4: How can the 480 hours be obtained?

ANSWER: Part 2, Appendix 2E.2 says 480 hours of clinical training can be obtained under direct supervision. The 480 hours is total clinic time and not actual procedure time. A qualified trainer including the supervisor or physician can sign off on documents verifying the clinical training.

QUESTION 5: Does a CT technologist need to take the ARRT registry to work in the state of Colorado as a CT operator?

ANSWER: No, a CT operator does not have to be certified in computed tomography by the ARRT to perform Computed Tomography radiography. Part 2, Appendix 2E1.1- 2E1.4 lists the alternative avenues for an individual to work in CT.

QUESTION 6: Can temporary workers from other states work in Colorado as a CT operator?

ANSWER: Operators who are ARRT(R) can only operate a CT with Department approval or if the operator is ARRT (CT), (N), (T), or (CNMT). If workers are temporary, they must meet the requirements of Part 2, Appendix 2E. Documentation of Part 2 Appendix 2E is required unless the technologist already has a certification in CT by the ARRT. Copies of these records must be kept on file at the facility.

QUESTION 7: If a technologist holds other certifications from the ARRT, can they work in CT?

ANSWER: Yes, Part 2, Appendix 2E1.1 – 2E1.4 lists the alternative education pathways for someone recognized as a CT operator-- ARRT (CT), (N), (T), (CNMT).

QUESTION 8: Can limited-scope operators perform CT examinations in the State of Colorado?

ANSWER: No, Part 2,2.6.1.5 defines what procedures a limited-scope operator can do. CT examinations are not a procedure a limited-scope operator is approved to perform.

QUESTION 9: How does the Department know that an individual meets all the requirements to perform CT procedures?

ANSWER: Review of an applicant's written documents and attestations are considered to be true statements of applicant's ability to operate a computed tomography x-ray machine. Approval by the Department is with a letter and certificate of approval sent to the CT operator.

QUESTION 10: What type of documentation is required to show proof of past experience for the 60 examinations in CT?

ANSWER: Part 2, Appendix 2E2.3 lists the examinations that show proof someone is qualified to do CT procedures. A supervisor or physician can sign off verifying these procedures were done. Acceptable examples of documentation can be formal or informal including old schedules, list of procedures with dates and patient ID number. The documentation must be kept on file in the employee records.

QUESTION 11: Is there a processing fee for CT operators registering with the Department?

ANSWER: Yes, there is a fee for document review for all types of applications. This fee is \$50.00. Part 2, Appendix 2A lists all fees paid to the Department.

QUESTION 12: Can the employer require more educational requirements than the Department under Part 2 of the regulations for CT technologists?

ANSWER: Yes, under Part 2, 2.6.1.7 and Appendix 2 E list the minimum requirements for CT operators in Colorado. An employer can require more than what the State Regulations require.

QUESTION 13: Is it a requirement to show proof to the Department for any continuing education for CT operators?

ANSWER: No, the Department does not require documentation of continuing education because ARRT R, (CT), (N), (T), (CNMT) operators are required to have proof of 24 hours of continuing hours every 2 years to maintain registration.

QUESTION 14: How long does the department give someone to meet the requirements of a CT operator?

ANSWER: Part 2, Appendix 2E requirements must be documented in the employee records and if the individual is in training, the training documents must indicate the employee is in the process of training. When the qualified inspector returns again for the annual inspection, the training must be completed and documented in the employee file that all of Part 2, Appendix 2E has been completed.

QUESTION 15: The 480 hours of clinical training may not be long enough to get the required 60 exams. Is the CT operator required to get the 60 exams during the clinical training?

ANSWER: No, some facilities do not have the volume to receive all 60 exams in the 480 hours of clinical training.

QUESTION 16: If a facility does not perform all of the CT procedures as outlined in Part 2, Appendix 2E2.3, is the CT operator still required to meet the 60 required exams?

ANSWER: If the CT operator in training can not meet the requirements of Part 2, Appendix 2E2.3, they must submit in writing to the Radiation Control Program the list of procedures the CT operator has met, and the Department will handle on a case-by-case basis.

QUESTION 17: Can a facility provide CT coverage with someone not qualified as a CT operator in case of illness, shortage of staff, etc.?

ANSWER: No, Part 2, 2.6.1.7 defines those qualified to perform CT procedures.

QUESTION 18: In a rural setting, can anyone operate the CT scanner?

ANSWER: No, Part 2, 2.6.1.7 defines adequately along with Part 2, Appendix 2E who can perform CT procedures. Part 2, 2.6.1.5.1. Limited-scope x-ray operators are not qualified to perform CT procedures.

QUESTION 19: Does Part 2, Appendix 2E effect CT operators operating only scanners with radiation therapy planning units?

ANSWER: Part 2, Appendix 2E1.2 and 2E1.3 allows operators who are ARRT (R), (CT), (N), (T), CMNT to operate radiation therapy planning scanners and are not required to document experience under Appendix 2E.

QUESTION 20: Who can operate the CT equipment designed specifically for nuclear medicine and PET scanning?

ANSWER: Part 2, Appendix 2E1.1 – 2E1.4 addresses different certifications with the ARRT which allows these specialty boards to meet the requirements for doing various CT procedures. For more clarification of this regulation, please contact the Radiation Control Program.

QUESTION 21: If a computed tomography (CT) unit has been purchased, who can operate the equipment if only registered technologists are employed at the facility?

ANSWER: Part 2, 2.6.1.7, defines individuals who are adequately trained to operate CT units, this includes the physician. Part 2, Appendix 2E further identifies the type of certifications recognized by the department to perform these CT procedures.