

Continuing Education Rules and Guidelines
Chapter 42
Iowa Radiation Machines and Radioactive Materials Rules

"Continuing education course" means a planned program of continuing education having sufficient scope and depth of a given subject area directly related to the field of diagnostic radiography, nuclear medicine, or radiation therapy to form an educational unit that is coordinated, administered, and evaluated in terms of educational objectives and that provides a defined level of knowledge or specific performance skill. This concept involves the organized presentation of a body of knowledge so that the subject matter is comprehensively covered in sufficient detail to meet the educational objectives of the course.

"Special category course" means those programs still related to health care but indirectly related to diagnostic radiography, nuclear medicine technology, or radiation therapy. Such programs are: advanced CPR, educator programs, management programs, personal improvement, for example.

42.2(3) Continuing education.

a. Each individual who is certified under these rules shall, during a two-year period, obtain continuing education credit as follows:

- (1) General diagnostic radiographer: 24 clock hours, 1.0 hour must be in radiation protection.
 1. Individuals holding an additional category in CT must complete 6.0 of the 24.0 hours in CT-related courses.
 2. Individuals not holding the additional category in CT may not submit continuing education hours in CT.
- (2) Limited-in-hospital diagnostic radiographer: 24 clock hours, 1.0 hour must be in radiation protection.
- (3) Limited diagnostic radiographer: 12 clock hours, 1.0 hour must be in radiation protection.
- (4) General nuclear medicine technologist: 24 hours total.
 1. One clock hour in principles of radiation protection and exposure each year, a total of two hours each two-year period.
 2. One clock hour in quality assurance each year, a total of two hours each two-year period.
 3. The remaining 20 clock hours of continuing education may be in any other subject directly related to nuclear medicine and approved by the department.
 4. Individuals holding an additional category in CT must complete 6.0 of the 24.0 hours in CT-related courses.
 5. Individuals not holding the additional category in CT may not submit continuing education hours in CT.
- (5) Limited nuclear medicine technologists: 12 hours total, 1.0 hour must be radiation protection and 1.0 hour must be in quality assurance.
- (6) Radiation therapist: 24.0 hours in subjects directly related to radiation therapy.
 1. Individuals holding an additional category in CT must complete 6.0 of the 24.0 hours in CT-related courses.

2. Individuals not holding the additional category in CT may not submit continuing education hours in CT.

- (8) Radiologist assistant: See rules specific for radiologist assistant.
- (9) Podiatric radiographer: See guidelines specific for podiatric radiographers.

b. Continuing education course approval.

(1) Information must be submitted in writing and must provide sufficient detail to show that the course meets the relevancy requirements of the rules and agency guidelines. (approval request form can be found on our website)

(2) Following its review, the agency will approve, disapprove, or request additional information on the proposed course.

(3) The agency may audit any continuing education course to verify content.

(4) Programs must be at least one hour in length and if lasting more than one hour, will be assigned credit in half-hour increments to the closest half-hour.

(5) No continuing education credit is approved for passing an initial certification examination or for basic CPR, hands-on practice, mandatory abuse reporting, or ultrasound or MRI courses that are less than 50 percent directly related to radiography, nuclear medicine, or radiation therapy.

(6) One-half hour of credit will be granted for each hour of formal demonstration by the application specialist. Content must be company-specific but not site-specific. Credit is limited to 50 percent of the total hours required.

(7) Courses will be approved for three-year period and may be given anytime within the three-year period. (Courses already approved for 5 years will be approved for the full 5 years.)

c. Continuing education credit will be awarded to individuals:

(1) Who have successfully completed a continuing education course which has been approved by the department. (ASRT or NMTCB approval does not guarantee Iowa approval)

(2) Who present a department-approved course to individuals certified in the presenter's field. Credit granted shall be at a rate of two times the amount of time it takes to present the course up to a maximum of 50% of the total hours required.

(3) Only once during a two-year period for the same continuing education course.

(4) Who complete 12.0 hours of tumor boards each two-year reporting period. Tumor board credit is limited to general radiographers, nuclear medicine technologists, and radiation therapists.

(5) Who complete all credit hours in self-studies. A self-study may not be repeated in subsequent reporting periods.

(6) Who pass an advanced ARRT certification examination in a permit-related area. 24.0 hours will be granted.

d. Continuing education must be related to the area of practice. 25% of the total hours required may be in "special category."

e. Proof of continuing education must be maintained for at least 3 years. Proof of continuing education may be in a sign-in sheet, certificate, or answer sheet. It must be signed

and dated by the presenter, program representative, or the individual's supervisor. Individuals authorized for mammography must meet the records requirements for mammography.

f. All continuing education requirements shall be completed during the two-year period prior to the certification continuing education due date.

g. Late submission of continuing education requirements.

(1) For any individual who completes the required continuing education before the continuing education due date but fails to submit the required proof within 30 days after the continuing due date, the certification shall be terminated and the renewal fee will not be refunded.

(2) Any individual who fails to complete the required continuing education before the due date but submits a written plan of correction to obtain the required hours plus 3.0 additional penalty hours for limited technologists and 6.0 additional penalty hours for general technologists and the \$25 date fee shall be allowed no more than 60 days after the original due date to complete the plan of correction and additional penalty hours and submit the documentation of completion. After 60 days, the certification shall be terminated and the individual shall not function as a diagnostic radiographer, nuclear medicine technologist, or radiation therapist in Iowa.

(3) Once certification has been terminated, any individual who request permission to reestablish certification within 6 months of the initial due date must submit proof of completion plus penalty hours and the late fee of \$25.

Additional information:

1. ASRT Journal articles are granted 1.0 hour for each article.
2. Some courses are approved for mammography authorization only and may not be used to meet permit to practice credits.

Website address for approval request form: idph.state.is.us/eh/permits_to_practice.asp
IDPH contact: Charlene Craig at 515/281-0415. FAX 515-281-4529. Email: ccraig@idph.state.ia.us.

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Date

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