Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer

ARKANSAS INFORMATION NOTICE 16-04

To: Registrants Performing Fluoroscopic Examinations.

From: Bernard Bevill, Section Chief, Radiation Control, Arkansas Department of Health

Date: December 20, 2016

Subject: Fluoroscopic Imaging

The following information is in regard to a Regulation which has been in effect since 2010, however due to an increase in patient dose discovered during recent compliance inspections, the Department will take this opportunity to reiterate the Regulation and increased diligence and oversite upon inspection are deemed appropriate.

Section RH-1603.h. of the Arkansas Board of Health's Rules and Regulations for the Control of Sources of Ionizing Radiation states in pertinent part:

"Each facility using fluoroscopic equipment for procedures shall include in a log for Department review the estimated patient radiation exposure received per procedure. Estimated adult skin doses that exceed 300 rad and estimated skin doses for children (under the age of 18) that exceed 100 rad must be reviewed by the facility's radiation safety committee. The review must document the reason why an estimated skin dose exceeded 300 rad for adults or 100 rad for children, and the reason must be documented in the committee's minutes. If a facility does not have a radiation safety committee, the facility must provide the Department, within thirty (30) days of the event, documentation stating why the patient's estimated dose exceeded 300 rad for adults or 100 rad for children."

While it is acceptable to record the dose information in the patient's record or electronically, this information must be retrievable in the form of a comprehensive list or 'log' upon request for Department review.

In the absence of a dose readout or indication such as in the case of some C-arm equipment, it is acceptable to record the fluoroscopy time instead. The intent of this regulation is to track and monitor patient dose during interventional procedures or other cases being performed under fluoroscopy and does not necessarily apply to simple needle localization. *However, it is in the best interest of the patient and of the equipment owner to record dose estimates for fluoroscopy and/or computed tomography when available.*

Please be aware that conditions of this requirement will be reviewed during the next routine compliance inspection by members of the Radiation Control Staff, and failure to adhere to the regulation will be considered an item of non-compliance as will any failure to report cases exceeding the limits to either the facility's Radiation Safety Committee or to the Department as stated above.

Should you have questions regarding this notice, please contact Sherry Davidson, X-ray Program Supervisor at 501-661-2922.