

**FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
BONE DENSITOMETRY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS
*Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Radiation Control (6CCR 1007-1)***

QUESTION 1: Does the course in ISCD fulfill the Department's requirement of the 30 hours of didactic training?

ANSWER: No, Part 2, Appendix 2F1.2 recognizes the 21 hours of ISCD (International Society for Clinical Densitometry) training but requires 30 hours of didactic education. However, an additional 9.0 hours of radiation safety training is required satisfy Part 2, 2F2A – 2F2C.

QUESTION 2: Does a registered radiologic technologist (ARRT R) need additional training in Bone Densitometry?

ANSWER: No, the ARRT(R) does not need additional training or registry in Bone Densitometry. Part 2, Section 2.6.1.8 and Appendix 2F1.1 outlines the qualifications for bone densitometry equipment operators. Individual operators may require additional training/certification.

QUESTION 3: If a radiologic technologist is registered by the ARRT and is certified in other modalities by the ARRT, can that individual do bone densitometry procedures?

ANSWER: Yes, Part 2, Appendix 2F1.1 recognizes certifications/registrations in: ARRT radiography, mammography, radiation therapy, nuclear medicine or certified nuclear medicine technologist. These certifications allow the technologist to do bone densitometry. Part 2, Section 2.6.1.8.

QUESTION 4: Is a registered radiologic technologist required to take the bone densitometry examination?

ANSWER: No, Part 2, Section 2.6.1.8 outlines optional avenues for bone densitometry. The Bone densitometry examination by the ARRT may be taken, but is not required by the Department.

QUESTION 5: Where can an individual receive bone densitometry educational training?

ANSWER: Bone densitometry training can be obtained numerous ways. Part 2, Appendix 2F1 outlines the requirements in the State of Colorado. The Department has a listing of educational avenues to fulfill these requirements and can be found on the website in "Educational Resources" document.

QUESTION 6: Are radiation safety programs available for bone densitometry?

ANSWER: Yes, Part 2, Appendix 2F2A – 2F2C outlines the required hours in radiation safety. The Department has a listing of programs to obtain the required hours.

QUESTION 7: If an individual has not received bone densitometry training through ISCD or they are not a registered radiologic technologist or equivalent, can they perform bone densitometry procedures?

ANSWER: No, not until the individual has met the minimum requirements stated in Part 2, Section 2.6.1.8 and Appendix 2F1.3 and 2F2 and with approval of the Department.

QUESTION 8: Is the ARRT BDEO examination adequate to meet the requirements for bone densitometry?

ANSWER: Yes, the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) has two bone densitometry examinations. One examination is for the already registered radiologic technologist (ARRT) and the other is for the non-registered individual. Both examinations meet the requirements in Part 2, Section 2.6.1.8 and Part 2, Appendix 2F. The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists BDEO certification is given once the examination is taken and a passed with a score of 75%.

QUESTION 9: What type of continuing education is required for bone densitometry?

ANSWER: Part 2, 2F3 says an individual will maintain a minimum of 18 hours of continuing education every 3 years. The continued education must be directly related to the field of bone densitometry or meet additional training as outlined in Part 2, Appendix 2F. Education credits in equipment, radiation safety procedure interpretations, and bone health are examples, but not limited to these.

QUESTION 10: Do the continuing education requirements have to be submitted to the Department?

ANSWER: Yes, sixty (60) days before the operator's certificate expires, a Renewal Application will be sent the address on file with Department. At that time, continuing education documents will be attached and returned to the Department together with a check for \$50.00 for the document review fee. The operator will receive a new certificate with new expiration date.

QUESTION 11: For those doing bone densitometry for more than 5 years, are these individuals required to meet the qualifications in Appendix 2F of the regulations?

ANSWER: Part 2, Section 2.6.1.8 and Appendix 2F. Documentation of experience is required by the Department. Three of the last 5 years can be documented using an attestation form for experience. Prior experience should be kept on file in the employee's file. Documentation signed by a physician, supervisor or qualified trainer must accompany the application together with the document review fee.

QUESTION 12: How can 480 hours of clinical training be obtained when the clinic only does a minimum number of examinations?

ANSWER: Part 2, Appendix 2F2.2 identifies procedures to be done under direct supervision. The 480 hours is not examination time, but instead the full training time in a clinical setting.

QUESTION 13: What is meant by direct supervision for bone densitometry?

ANSWER: Part 2, Section 2.2 defines direct supervision as someone in the facility that is a qualified trainer, but does not need to be present in the room during the procedure. Part 2, Appendix 2F2.2.1. The qualified trainer will be readily available for assistance if needed.

QUESTION 14: How is the clinical experience for bone densitometry documented?

ANSWER: Part 2, Appendix 2F2.2.2 states that an individual who provided supervision of clinical training shall document procedures and training and this should be kept on file in the employee's records. When registering with the Department as a bone densitometry equipment operator, Forms R-80, R-82, and R-83 need to be kept on file and submitted along with an application and \$50.00 processing fee. Part 2, Appendix 2A.

QUESTION 15: An individual moves to the State of Colorado with experience in doing bone densitometry. Does that individual need to register with the department?

ANSWER: Yes, the individual needs to register with the Department and show proof that they meet all the requirements as outlined in Part 2, Appendix 2F.

QUESTION 16: If an individual is registered in the State of Colorado, can this person do bone densitometry in other states?

ANSWER: Each state varies in their qualifications so it is best to check with the particular state for more information regarding regulations in bone densitometry.

QUESTION 17: If an individual is registered with the Department, can a bone density operator perform other x-ray procedures?

ANSWER: The bone densitometry operator can only perform x-ray procedures if they are an ARRT technologist or a Department approved limited-scope x-ray operator or meet other requirements in Part 2, 2.6.1.5 pursuant to Sections 2.6.1.6, 2.6.1.7, 2.6.1.8 and/or 2.6.1.9. Registration with the Department does not automatically approve the individual to perform other procedures.

QUESTION 18: If a bone density operator already has the ARRT Bone Density Certification, does the Department require documentation?

ANSWER: Yes, the bone densitometry equipment operator needs to register with the Department using form R-80. Part 2, Appendix 2F3 requires renewal every 3 years and to show proof of the 18 hours of continuing education. The radiologic technologist certified by ARRT is not required to register with the Department.

QUESTION 19: What procedures are required for clinical examinations in Bone densitometry?

ANSWER: Part 2, Appendix 2F2.3 outlines the 3 procedures required for clinical procedures to be done. There are 10 examinations each of the forearm, lumbar spine and proximal femur. This documentation needs to be kept in the employee's file. If registering with the Department for the first time, form R-83 must be submitted as documentation of competency procedures.

QUESTION 20: Who is responsible for auditing and making sure that the bone density operator is approved for the position?

ANSWER: Every three years, the qualified inspector will evaluate the bone densitometry equipment operator's employee records. It is also the responsibility of the individual to make sure that the 18 hours of continuing education and all documentation is kept current in the employee file. Part 2, Appendix 2F. The qualified inspector will be looking for the registration certificate of approval from the Department.

QUESTION 21: Is the Bone Densitometry examination given by the ARRT required by the Department to perform bone densitometry examinations in the state?

ANSWER: No, the Department does not require the ARRT Bone Densitometry examination. However, this may be a requirement of the employer.