



## ORDERING X-RAYS

### Rule .0104 DEFINITIONS

- (82) "Physician" means an individual currently licensed to practice medicine in this state.
- (68) "Medical Use" defines the intentional internal or external administration of radioactive material or radiation to patients or human research subjects under the supervision of an authorized user.
- (91) "Radiation" (ionizing radiation) defines gamma rays and X-rays, alpha and beta particles, high-speed electrons, protons, neutrons, and other nuclear particles and electromagnetic radiation. These particles consist of associated and interacting electric and magnetic waves

### Rule .0603(a) (1) (G) Authorized Exposures

Individuals shall not be exposed to the useful beam except for healing arts purposes. Such exposures shall have been authorized by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts. This provision specifically prohibits deliberate exposure of an individual for training, demonstration or other non-healing arts purposes.

Physician's orders—the physician's instructions for the care of an individual patient should:

1. Provide accurate detailed information regarding patient history;
2. Specify what procedures/test is required, which may include a written description of the method to be used i.e., standing, flat or mention a specific exam protocol;
3. State any special circumstances and/or limitations; and
4. **Document all of the above in writing, dated and signed by the physician.**

The physician should be available for consultation, assistance and direction upon the delivery of prescribed X-ray services or in the advent of a medical emergency.

According to state regulations regarding the administration of radiation: it is not within the scope of practice for a nurse to independently insert or write in a dosage, time, frequency or route on a prescription or in a medical order blank space. These are components of prescribing and must be determined by the prescriber, physician of record, or his designated stand-in physician.

Additionally, **it is not within the scope of practice for a nurse to fill in a blank prescription pre-signed by a prescriber with regard to X-ray exams.** In the Rules, concerning the administration of radiation, a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse is not authorized to render medical diagnosis or to prescribe a medical plan of care.

The physician understanding the personal and medical history of his or her patient, after the performance of appropriate physical examination and the recording of physical findings, may established procedures for providing care by his personnel. This can only be done under the supervision of a physician who is directly supervising or overseeing the delivery of medical or health care to his patients.

The Radiology Compliance Branch does not restrict the physician from delegating administrative, technical or clinical tasks that does not involve the exercise of medical judgment by a physician. These clinical or technical tasks would involve specially trained individuals instructed and directed by a licensed physician who accepts responsibility for the acts of such allied health personnel.