I. **POLICY**

   It is the policy of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) to provide a system-wide process for efficiently certifying and privileging physicians to safely operate fluoroscopic equipment.

II. **PURPOSE**

   The requirement for providing training and certification for physicians who use fluoroscopic X-ray equipment is based on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Code, Title 25, Section 221.11, Appendix A. The regulation requires that individuals who operate diagnostic X-ray equipment be instructed adequately in the safe operating procedures and be competent in the safe use of the equipment. It also requires continuing education in radiation safety.

   The purpose of this policy therefore is to ensure a uniform process for education and privileging physicians throughout the UPMC. This process will be in conformance with the State requirements as noted above.

III. **PROCEDURE**

   **Initial Appointments:**

   - Physicians applying for fluoroscopy privileges at any system hospital will be required to read the education manual titled “Minimizing Risks from Fluoroscopic X-Rays” by Louis K. Wagner and Benjamin R. Archer.
   - They will then complete a written test with a passing grade of 80 percent or higher.
   - The test will be graded at the individual hospital and submitted to the Center for Continuing Education for certification and entry into the common database.
   - This test result can be accessed by any UPMC Medical Staff office for use in their privileging process for the same physician applying for privileges at multiple locations.
   - Physicians who have completed the training already will also be entered into this database.
   - This education/training will be certified as patient safety education for up to 2.5 Category One CME’s.
• Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists by virtue of their training and completion of an accredited residency training program in their respective specialties are already compliant with the training requirements and do not have to satisfy these initial certification requirements. However, Radiologists and Radiation oncologists will be subject to the same reappointment process as described below.

Reappointments:

• All Physicians who already hold privileges for Fluoroscopy use should at their biennial reappointment cycle complete a brief refresher fluoroscopy education Rapid Deployment patient safety module available on the Continuing Education Web site.
• This continuing education module should be completed prior to every two-year reappointment cycle.
• Completion of this module will demonstrate the required Continuing Education and will carry 1.0 Category One CME credits and will qualify as a Patient safety/Risk management credit.
• The Rapid deployment module will be updated periodically and maintained as per current safety requirements on a biennial basis.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

• The responsibility for providing the initial reading materials and the test will be at each system facility.
• The book and a photocopy license must be purchased by each facility.
• The photocopy license provides the facility with the legal right to photocopy the program (manuscript and test) for anyone in the facility that is involved with the application of fluoroscopic X-rays.
• Instructions for accessing the on-line re-certification Web site will be made available to each system facility.
• Each facility will also be responsible for notifying the Center for Continuing Education when a physician has completed the requirements for certification/recertification.
• Conflicts related to whether or not a physician has passed the certification examination process and should receive the privilege to operate fluoroscopic equipment should be managed at the originating system facility.

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