

# Continuing Education Requirements for Certificate/Permit Renewal

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## **1. General Information**

The continuing education (CE) credits and continuing experience required to renew permits and certificates in radiologic technology are specified in title 17, California Code of Regulation (17 CCR), section 30403. The Radiologic Health Branch does not have a program to provide continuing education credits and does not credential providers of continuing education.

An “approved continuing education credit” means 50 - 60 minutes of instruction received in subjects related to the application of X-ray to the human body and accepted for purposes of credentialing, assigning professional status or certification by the following organizations:

- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)
- Medical Board of California
- Osteopathic Medical Board of California
- California Board of Chiropractic Examiners
- Board of Podiatric Medicine
- Dental Board of California

Please note: “Subjects related to the application of X-ray to the human body” may include X-ray administration, X-ray management, X-ray pathology, X-ray diagnosis and X-ray quality control. However, subjects in MRI, Ultrasound, CPR, or other topics not related to the application of X-rays to the human body cannot be accepted. It is the responsibility of the certificate or permit holder to ascertain the acceptability of courses.

The renewal form mailed to you will include space for documenting the approved CE credits you have earned. You may use the reverse side of the renewal form, if needed. Each individual is required to maintain documents that evidence the completion of approved continuing education credits for four (4) years following the dates the credits were earned. These documents must be made available to the Department upon request. [17 CCR 30403.8]

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## **2. Licentiates of the Healing Arts – CE Requirements**

Licentiates of the healing arts are those physicians and surgeons, osteopathic physicians and surgeons, podiatrists and chiropractors who possess a Radiology supervisor and operator certificate, or a Fluoroscopy, Radiography or Dermatology supervisor and operator permit.

All licentiates need to earn 10 approved CE credits in the two years immediately preceding the expiration date of their certificate/permit.

If an individual holds a fluoroscopy supervisor and operator permit, four (4) of the 10 credits must be in radiation safety for the clinical uses of fluoroscopy. [17 CCR 30403(b)]

An Approved Continuing Education Credit means 50 to 60 minutes of instruction received in subjects related to the application of X-ray to the human body and accepted for purposes of credentialing, assigning professional status or certification by:

- ARRT
- Medical Board of California
- Osteopathic Medical Board of California
- California Board of Chiropractic Examiners
- Board of Podiatric Medicine
- Dental Board of California

EXAMPLE: The Medical Board of California requires that physicians complete 50 hours of approved continuing education during each two-year period, and refers to these hours as Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits. One CE credit is equivalent to one CME credit as defined by the Medical Board of California when X-ray application to the human body is the subject matter of the education.

Licentiates who are in residency or fellowship programs and courses, and seminars and meetings that contain subject matter related to X-ray may qualify for CE credits if they are granted CME status by the Medical Board of California. CME credits are determined to qualify for CE credit on an hour per hour basis of instruction related to X-ray. For example, a 3 day seminar that is granted 24 CME credits by the medical board would need to have discussions or training pertaining to X-ray amounting to at least 10 hours over the 3 day duration of the seminar. The required 10 hours of CE credits can be accrued over all education activities completed in the 2 year period.

It is the responsibility of the certificate or permit holder to ascertain the acceptability of the continuing education activity as a CE credit for the Department's purposes. When completing the renewal form, please list all CME credit quantities in the "Hours/credits" column on the renewal application. If an audit is performed, you will be required to provide the documentation showing that at least 10 of the CME credits listed are related to X-ray.

Additionally, courses and training offered by other recognized organizations can qualify as CE credits if they meet the requirements listed under general requirements above.

For further information on CME credits, please visit [www.mbc.ca.gov](http://www.mbc.ca.gov), and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California at [www.ombc.ca.gov](http://www.ombc.ca.gov). The Board of Podiatric Medicine's continuing competency requirements can be viewed at [www.bpm.ca.gov](http://www.bpm.ca.gov). The Dental Board of California's policy on CE credits can be viewed at [www.dbc.ca.gov](http://www.dbc.ca.gov). The California Board of Chiropractic Examiners has additional requirements related to the training for the use of X-ray and can be viewed at [www.chiro.ca.gov](http://www.chiro.ca.gov).

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### **3. Physician Assistants Fluoroscopy Permit – CE Requirements**

Physician Assistants (PA) issued a PA fluoroscopy permit pursuant to 17 CCR section 30456.2 are required to submit every two (2) years immediately preceding the expiration date of the permit, no less than ten (10) approved continuing education credits, with at least four (4) of the credits addressing radiation safety for the clinical uses of fluoroscopy. [17 CCR 30456.6(a)]

“Approved continuing education credits” means one hour increments of instruction received in subjects related to the application of X-ray to the human body, which have been accepted for purposes of licensing, credentialing, assigning professional status, or certification, by any of the following entities:

- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT);
- California Physician Assistant Committee;
- Medical Board of California;
- Osteopathic Medical Board of California;
- California Board of Chiropractic Examiners; or
- Board of Podiatric Medicine.

The CE credit information to be submitted to the Department must include:

- The identity of the group(s) listed above that has accepted the instruction;
- The provider of the instruction and the provider’s contact information;
- A description of the instruction; and
- The date(s) of the instruction.

The PA fluoroscopy permit holder must maintain documents that evidence the completion of approved continuing education credits for four years following the dates the credits were earned. These documents must be made available to the Department upon request.

PA’s who hold a Radiologic Technologist Fluoroscopy (RTF) permit need to refer to section: [6. Radiologic Technology Fluoroscopy \(RTF\) Permit ADDITIONAL Requirements](#) as the above requirements do not apply for the renewal of your RTF permit.

### **4. Certified Radiologic Technologists (CRT) - CE Requirements**

This section discusses CE requirements for diagnostic and therapeutic, CRTs. Mammographic CRTs have ADDITIONAL requirements which are discussed separately below.

CRTs need to earn twenty-four (24) approved CE credits, four (4) of which shall be in digital radiography, in the two years immediately preceding the expiration date of their permit.

The Department will accept the following advanced credential certificates issued by ARRT for 24 CE credits if the certificate was issued within the two years immediately preceding the expiration date of the certificate or permit:

- Mammography\*\*
- Computerized Tomography
- Quality Management
- Bone Densitometry
- Vascular-interventional Radiography
- Cardiac-interventional Radiography
- Radiologist Assistant
- Radiation Therapy

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Note: Issuance of a certificate through the State of California where a state examination was taken does not qualify for CE credits. However, training courses taken in preparation for these exams may be approved by one of the credentialing organizations listed above and therefore would qualify.

Activities meeting the definition of an 'approved academic course' as defined by the ARRT may be awarded CE credit at the rate of 12 CE credits for each academic quarter credit or 16 CE credits for each academic semester credit. The 'approved academic course' must also pertain to the application of X-ray to the human body to qualify as a CE credit for California. For more information on acceptable classes, please visit the ARRT website at [www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org).

The ASRT is a recognized credentialing body for continuing education activities and those activities pertaining to the application of X-ray of the human body will be acceptable to the Department.

### **5. Mammographic Certified Radiologic Technologists (CRT) – ADDITIONAL Requirements**

Each person who has been issued a Mammographic CRT certificate must, in the two years immediately preceding the expiration date of the certificate, must earn 10 of the 24 Approved CE credits in mammography. [17 CCR 30403(a)(1)]

\*\*The advanced credential certificate for mammography will meet the 10 CE credits specific to mammography requirement. The other advanced credentials will not meet this requirement, so additional CE credits will need to be earned specific to mammography.

### **6. Radiologic Technology Fluoroscopy (RTF) Permit ADDITIONAL Requirements**

- CRTs with a RTF permit are required to earn 24 approved continuing education credits; four of which are required to be in radiation safety for the clinical uses of fluoroscopy. [17 CCR 30403(a)(2)].
- PA with a RTF permit: For purposes of renewing your RTF permit, you will need to earn 24 approved continuing education credits; four of which are required to be in radiation safety for the clinical uses of fluoroscopy.

### **7. Limited Permit X-Ray Technicians (XT) – CE Requirements**

Limited Permit X-Ray Technicians (XTs) must earn twenty-four (24) approved CE credits, in the two years immediately preceding the expiration date of their permit.

Limited Permit X-Ray Technicians (XTs) with digital authorization must earn four (4) of the twenty-four (24) CE credits in digital radiography. [17 CCR 30403(a)]

The Department will grant twenty-four (24) CE credits to XTs who have enrolled in an approved Radiologic Technology program and who have documented the completion of a minimum of six months coursework.

Documentation must include a letter from an authorized representative of the approved Radiologic Technology program. Additional documentation may also be required, such as official school transcripts. Be sure to include this information on your renewal application.

Completion of instruction in digital radiologic technology (to obtain digital authorization) in accordance with [17 CCR 30410(c)] is considered to be approved for 20 CE credits for purposes of renewing your permit. It is your responsibility to include these credits on your renewal application.

## **8. Certified Technologist, Nuclear Medicine – CE Requirements**

The CE requirements and continuing experience required to renew certificates in nuclear medicine are specified in 17 CCR 30536. Nuclear Medicine Certificates expire five years from the date of issuance.

17 CCR 30536(c)(1), states, “Documentation submitted with the application establishes that the applicant has participated in management-sponsored or formal continuing education or training offered by one or more of the following:

- (A) Professional organizations or societies.
- (B) Institutions of higher learning.
- (2) The applicant’s education and training includes at least five (5) clock hours since the last certificate renewal or initial application in each of the scopes specified in 17 CCR 30533 for which the certificate was issued.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) is a recognized credentialing body for continuing education activities pertaining to nuclear medicine.

Nuclear medicine categories pursuant to 17 CCR 30533(a) states, “Certificates shall be issued for one or more of the following:

- (1) Diagnostic in vivo and in vitro tests involving measurement of uptake, dilution, or excretion, including venipuncture, but not involving imaging.
- (2) Diagnostic nuclear medicine technology procedures involving imaging, including venipuncture.
- (3) Use of generators and reagent kits for preparation of radioactive material.
- (4) Internal radioactive material therapy.”

CE credits from the Radiopharmacy scope may be applied to either: Non-Imaging (in-vivo/in-vitro) or Generators and Kits, depending upon the topic.

## **9. Frequently Asked Questions**

### *1. What courses can be accepted for continuing education credit in California?*

In order for us to be able to accept a course as credit for continuing education, it needs to be in a subject that is related to the application of X-rays to the human body and it must be approved by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, American Society of Radiologic Technologists, Medical Board of California, Osteopathic Medical Board of California, California Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Board of Podiatric Medicine; the Dental Board of California, or Society of Nuclear Medicine (FOR NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST ONLY)

### *2. How many credits do I need to renew my certificate/permit?*

- XTs with digital authorization and CRTs need to earn a minimum of twenty-four (24) Approved Continuing Education (CE) credits, four (4) of which are in digital radiography in the 2 years prior to the expiration of their certificate/permit.
- CRTs with a mammography certificate need 24 Approved CE credits, with 10 CE credits that are specific to mammography.
- CRTs with a fluoroscopy permit need 24 Approved CE credits, with 4 CE credits that shall be in radiation safety for the clinical uses of fluoroscopy.
- Certified Supervisors and Operators (California Licensed Physicians and Surgeons, Podiatrists, or Chiropractors) need to earn 10 Approved CE Credits in the 2 years prior to the expiration of their certificate/permit. If a Licentiate holds a fluoroscopy supervisor and operator permit, four of the ten (10) CE credits shall be in radiation safety for the clinical uses of fluoroscopy.

3. *Why were changes made to the CE credit requirement?*

The changes and amendment were brought about as the result of recommendations of the Radiologic Technology Certification Committee and fulfills the Department's mandate from the Legislature as stated in H&S Code 114870(b)(2) and (c)(3).

4. *How many CE credits do I need if I hold a CRT with a mammography certificate and a fluoroscopy permit?*

You are required to submit twenty-four (24) CE credits, with ten (10) hours specific to mammography, four (4) in radiation safety for the clinical uses of fluoroscopy, and four (4) CE credits in digital radiography. If any of the mammography or fluoroscopy CE credits that you have obtained are related to digital radiography, they may be used to satisfy the four (4) digital radiography CE requirements.

5. *Do I have to obtain a digital license?*

RHB does not issue digital licenses. The proper terminology is "Digital Authorization" and it applies only to XTs. A CRT is not required to obtain a digital authorization.

6. *What if I am an XT, but I do not have digital authorization?*

XT's who do not have digital authorization are not required to obtain CE credits in digital radiography.

7. *With the new digital radiography CE credit requirement, do I have to take additional classes for continuing education?*

No. The new CE credit requirement allows the CRT and XT with Digital Authorization to allocate four (4) of the twenty-four (24) CE credits to digital radiography.

8. *I am a CRT, but I do not perform computerized tomography (CT). Do I still have to obtain four (4) digital radiography CE credits?*

Yes. Under the regulations, all CRT's are required to obtain four (4) CE credits in digital radiography.

9. *How can I find out where continuing education courses are being held?*

Perform an Internet search using California Radiology Continuing Education or California X-ray Continuing Education. Do not forget to verify that the certificate and course is being given by an approved body as listed in Question #1 and is in a subject that is related to the application of X-rays to the human body.

10. *What happens if I have not earned my required credits when my certificate or permit renewal is due?*

We cannot process your renewal until you have earned the required credits and sent in your renewal application with the required information and fee. It is a violation of the regulations to continue to work with an expired certificate or permit.

11. *Can courses in MRI, Ultra Sound, and CPR be accepted for approved continuing education credits?*

No. Credits can be accepted only for approved courses in subjects that are related to the application of X-rays to the human body. These courses can include subjects in radiology administration or management and radiologic pathology, diagnosis, or quality control.

12. *Can the granting of the required 24 CE credits be in subject matter related to the applicant's work area (i.e. US, MRI, NMT, etc.)?*

No. The acceptable subject matter is limited to those subjects related to the application of X-rays to humans because the Department-issued certificates and permits authorize those individuals to expose humans to radiation for diagnostic, therapeutic, and mammographic purposes. Ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging, and nuclear medicine technology (NMT) are not related to the application of X-ray to humans as addressed under the RT Act.

Though NMT involves the use of ionizing radiation, it is specific to the use of radioactive material but not X-ray equipment.

13. *Would the performance of fluoroscopy procedures be accepted for CE credits?*

No. The performance of fluoroscopy procedures does not meet the criteria in the definition of approved continuing education and would not be accepted for CE credits.

14. *Are all continuing education courses approved by ARRT accepted in California as approved continuing education credits?*

No. We can only accept approved courses that are in subjects related to the application of X-ray to the human body.

15. *How do I report continuing education credits that I have earned?*

Complete the renewal application sent with your renewal notice. You will need to retain your original course certificates for (4) four years so that you can provide a copy for audit purposes if needed.

16. *Does the renewal application for my certificate/permit require me to submit my actual CE certificates or will a tracking list suffice?*

The renewal document needs to provide specific information, one of which is a description of the instruction. The description needs to be specific enough to determine whether the instruction meets the definition of an approved continuing education credit as defined in section 30400(a)(4). The actual certificates, as indicated in section 30403.8, would need to be submitted only if requested.

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