



March 9, 2015

Dear Chair Greenlick and members of the Committee,

The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants urges you to support House Bill 2880, which would allow appropriately trained and qualified Physician Assistants (PAs) to perform fluoroscopy.

The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (OSPA) seeks to promote quality, cost effective, and accessible health care; to support the professional and personal development of Physician Assistants; and to advance the PA profession as well as the PA/MD team approach to health care.

With those goals in mind, OSPA worked with the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging to develop a certification program for PAs interested in using fluoroscopy in their practice. OSPA appreciates the work OBMI has done to convene stakeholders, research programs, and facilitate the drafting of HB 2880.

OVERVIEW OF PAS PERFORMING FLUOROSCOPY

Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia currently allow PAs to perform fluoroscopy. These states include our neighbors Washington, California and Idaho, as well as every other state west of the Rockies, except Arizona and Oregon.

Ten states currently exempt PAs from needing an RT license to use ionizing radiation. Ten additional states and the District of Columbia do not regulate RTs, so PAs are not prohibited by law from using ionizing radiation if delegated to do so by a supervising physician. In twelve states PAs who have had additional training may take x-rays or use fluoroscopy or may do so in specified circumstances. PAs in the remaining 18 states must possess some sort of radiography license in order to utilize ionizing radiation.

The American Association of Physician Assistants (AAPA) estimates that about 1.1% of all PAs nationwide work in the field of radiology, but this small percentage doesn't capture the number of PAs performing radiographic procedures in virtually every other specialty. Oregon has roughly 1,500 licensed PAs, and we estimate that fewer than 2%, or 30 PAs, would pursue a fluoroscopy license if made available by the Board of Medical Imaging.

House Bill 2880 requires PAs to complete 80 hours of didactic and clinical training, pass an exam and obtain a certificate from the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging –

then and only then may their supervising physician delegate fluoroscopy services to a PA. An overview of the bill's requirements is below:

Fluoroscopy Certificate Program at Oregon Board of Medical Imaging

1. The Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI) will issue a certificate to practice fluoroscopy after the PA:
 - a. Completes the Fluoroscopic Education Framework for the Physician Assistant (outlined below);
 - b. Passes an exam related to the Education Framework as approved by the Board;
 - c. Submits a certificate application and fee to OBMI.
2. OBMI will issue the certificate, which will go on file at the Oregon Medical Board with the PA's practice agreement.
3. A supervising physician may not delegate fluoroscopy services unless the PA holds a current certificate from the OBMI.
4. The PA's supervising physician must hold or be exempt from holding a radiology license, and the delegation of fluoroscopy and level of supervision must be documented in the practice agreement between the physician assistant and supervising physician on file at the Oregon Medical Board.

The Fluoroscopic Education Framework for the Physician Assistant, created through the collaboration of the AAPA and ASRT, consists of the following educational and clinical training:

- A. Didactic content (40 hours)
 1. Digital image acquisition and display;
 2. Contrast media;
 3. Fluoroscopic unit operation and safety;
 4. Image analysis;
 5. Radiation biology;
 6. Radiation production and characteristics; and
 7. Radiation protection.
- B. Clinical Component
 1. Clinical competency requirement: 40 hours observing and performing fluoroscopic procedures in a fluoroscopic suite under the personal supervision of a physician who is a radiography instructor, holds a radiography license or is exempt from licensure.

House Bill 2880 puts in place a fluoroscopy certificate program for PAs that promotes patient safety will facilitate clinical efficiency and decrease delays in patient care. OSPA urges your support.

Thank you.