



Oregon

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GOVERNOR'S 2017-2019 BUDGET

OREGON BOARD OF MEDICAL IMAGING (OBMI)

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WHAT THE BOARD OF MEDICAL IMAGING DOES

The Oregon Board of Medical Imaging, with an overriding mission to protect the public health, oversees licensure and regulation of medical imaging technologists who practice radiography (x-ray), sonography, MRI, nuclear medicine, and radiation therapy. In addition, the OBMI issues permits to qualified limited x-ray permit holders.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Assure that persons who practice medical imaging are properly licensed.
- Increase awareness of medical imaging laws and practices among the public and medical provider community.
- Investigate and resolve complaints regarding medical imaging in a fair and timely manner.
- Determine that limited x-ray machine operator (LXMO) schools are operated in a manner to assure that LXMOs are properly trained to perform within the scope of practice.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

- Licensure: Total of 5,573 permanent active licenses, a 33 percent increase since 2010, due largely to expansion of licensure requirement to include sonography, MRI, and nuclear medicine, initiated by legislation in 2009. Oregon has the most comprehensive medical imaging licensure law in the nation.
- Initial Education for Limited X-Ray: Inspect and oversee educational institutions that offer initial programs for limited x-ray permits. Also, coordinate licensure examinations for limited x-ray machine operators.
- Continuing Education: Review and approve continuing education course offerings. All licensees must maintain competency either by maintaining national registry credentialing or completing CE coursework.
- Enforcement: Investigate complaints and violations of licensure statutes and rules.
- License/permit fee: \$120 for a *two-year* license or permit. Some individuals have multiple licenses (e.g. radiography and MRI) which OBMI will combine into one license for the same \$120 two-year fee.
- Monthly renewal: OBMI sets license and permits to renew on the birth month of the renewal applicant.

RECENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

- Allow OBMI to designate certain minor offenses to be non-disciplinary – not reported to the national practitioner data base -- if they do not impact patient care or cause harm to the public. (HB 2267)¹
- Exempt ophthalmic sonography from OBMI's licensure requirement (there are two ophthalmic sonographers in Oregon, at OHSU's Casey Eye Institute). (HB 2267)¹
- Bone densitometry permit: Allow OBMI to provide a new pathway for Oregonians to earn a bone densitometry permit from OBMI, to make this permit more accessible. (HB 2267)¹
- Fiscal Impact (Pkg 126): *OBMI estimates that ten individuals will obtain a bone densitometry permit through this new pathway in 2017-19, for an estimated total revenue impact of \$1,200.*
- Provide a pathway for physician assistants to perform fluoroscopy: Effective beginning in 2016, OBMI established a permit for physician assistants to operate fluoroscopic x-ray equipment, to expand their capacity to assist during radiographic procedures.

¹ Contained in HB 2267, passed the House 57-0 on February 8, 2017.

RECENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES (continued)

- Collect Health Workforce Data: In October 2016 the OBMI updated all application forms to require renewal applicants to complete a health workforce questionnaire. By rule, OBMI established a \$4 surcharge (authorized by SB 230 in 2015), with all revenue to be annually transferred to the Oregon Health Authority.
- Fingerprint criminal background checks completed on all *new* license applicants, started Jan. 2015. (Renewals continue to be checked through the State Police, not fingerprints.)
- Computed Tomography (CT) registry credential: Beginning 1/1/17, technologists performing diagnostic computed tomography (CT) must demonstrate competency by passing an examination to become registry-certified. Temporary (conditional) licensure is available while completing clinical exam prerequisites.
- Waivers for rural hospitals: By legislation and rulemaking, OBMI established pathways to waive certain credentialing requirements for technologists in rural hospitals with shortages of certain license specialties.
- Electronic storage of licensure records: Recently instituted electronic storage of all new and renewal license records, for access, security and convenience.
- Shared accounting services: OBMI recently joined with five other health licensing boards to jointly hire an accountant 2.

MEASURING PERFORMANCE THROUGH PUBLIC SAFETY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Timely licensure: All properly-submitted license applications and renewals are processed within 5 days.
- Automation: The OBMI works to continually update the website to make it more useful to licensees, and promotes renewal through the online renewal process. In cooperation with other health licensing boards co-located at the Portland State Office Building, the OBMI is moving toward a new database which will enhance the agency's efforts to promote paperless transactions.
- Customer Service:
 - Initial response to telephone inquiries within one business day;
 - Instituted e-newsletter to keep licensees informed regarding Board news and actions;
 - Continuous review and update of website to simplify and provide useful information.
- 140 disciplinary cases opened during 2015-6 (avg. 70 per year): The Board initiated a total of 140 disciplinary cases during all of 2015 and 2016. Of the two-year total cases opened:
 - Complaints: Twenty-nine cases (21% of total 2015-16 opened cases) were initiated by complaints filed with the board. Most of the remaining cases were initiated by OBMI staff audit at the time of application or renewal.
 - Disciplinary action: 76 cases (54% of total 2015-16 opened cases) resulted in disciplinary action, most of them based upon the following violations, which are typically settled through consent agreement with civil penalty:
 - Practicing on an expired license; or
 - Failure to report criminal history on a license application. (We've seen more of these since OBMI instituted fingerprint background checks.)
 - Most cases resolved in 3 months: Of the 76 cases in which the Board voted to initiate disciplinary action, 58 were resolved within three months from initiation. Seventeen were resolved in under six months. One case took ten months.
 - Two appeals: During 2015-16, two licensees appealed (unsuccessfully) the Board's disciplinary action against their licenses. (OBMI has a *flat rate contract* with the Department of Justice,)

FOCUS ON CUSTOMER SERVICE & INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

- To meet expanded demand with no increase in licensure staff, OBMI focuses on immediate customer service, processing most license applications and renewals within two business days, following receipt of application and fingerprint background check, and promptly responding to inquiries from licensees and applicants.
- OHA Radiation Protection Services (RPS) serves in an advisory capacity to the OBMI. The two agencies coordinate on issues related to legislation and rulemaking, and in the past OBMI has contracted with RPS for investigative services.
- Work cooperatively with other health boards co-located in Portland on software and database programming, shared accounting services, office resources, business continuity, safety plan, and others.