



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Board of Medical Imaging

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House Interim Committee on Health Care Workforce Capacity

Oregon Board of Medical Imaging (OBMI):

- Established in 1977
- Health care related board that issues licenses and permits to well educated professionals who perform technical medical procedures that require a high level of safety precaution, skill, and ethical integrity
- Authority and empowered by Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 688 and Administrative Rules Chapter 337
- *The mission of the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging is to promote, preserve and protect the public health, safety and welfare of Oregonians who are undergoing medical imaging studies performed by agency license and permit holders for the purpose of medical diagnosis and therapy*
- Statutes and rules outline specific and detailed requirements for licensure requirements including education, national credentialing, and continuing education.
- Statutes and rules specifically outline compliance and discipline
- Oregon is the first state to implement licensure for all medical imaging modalities (Radiography, Nuclear Medicine, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Radiation Therapy and Sonography). In addition, the OBMI issues permits and oversees the educational programs and continuing education for Limited X-ray Machine Operators (LXMO)

Board Members:

- 12 members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate that include technologists that represent all 5 imaging modalities, 4 physicians and 3 public members that serve 2 three-year terms
 - Staff: 4 positions with 3.75 FTE: Executive Director, Investigator/Board Advisor who is a licensed Radiological Technologist, Compliance Specialist, and an Administrative Specialist.
 - OBMI staff work closely together and along with the Board members to fully investigate and determine a licensee's, permit holder's or employer's violation of rule or statute, appropriate discipline and execution of Board final orders and probation.
 - Provides a vital service to Oregonians by providing a licensure process for professional technologists that perform radiological procedures and ensuring competent patient care through disciplinary investigations and Board action
 - Due to the potential risk to patient safety that is inherent with radiation and other medical imaging modalities, it is imperative that the OBMI staff have specific knowledge of the medical imaging field in order to determine if licensure should be issued or if violations of Oregon Revised Statutes or Oregon Administrative Rules have occurred during the licensure process.
 - Investigatory staff must have a technical and experiential grasp of medical imaging in order to fully investigate disciplinary cases and public complaints.
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- Stellar reputation for collaboration and cooperation both in and among the profession of Medical Imaging and with health care related boards such as the Oregon State Board of Nursing and the Oregon Medical Board.
 - The positive public opinion of the OBMI is represented by the favorable results of Key Performance Measures.
 - Well supported and meetings consistently attended by local and national representatives of professional organizations.

License and Permit Types: The Board issues Licenses for all nationally recognized modalities of Medical Imaging both Full Licensure for credentialed persons (Permanent Licenses that renew every two years) and for persons training in the form of Temporary Licenses. There are 9 basic types of Licenses and Permits with over 37 sub-specialties that are specifically outlined in the licensure process.



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Licenses and Permits issued per year: Currently 7,744 ACTIVE license and permit holders. OBMI issues approximately 3500 licenses and permits per year or 291 per month.

Growth Rate: New licenses and permit holders grow consistently by approximately 12-13% per year over the last 5 years.

Licensure Processing time: For Complete Submissions

Renewals: Continuous renewal process that is based upon birth-month. Typically, 1 business day 98% less than 5 days.

New/Out of State: Typically, 1 business day 98% less than 5 days.

Processing time comparison: With the new database and fully automated applications and payments, staff changes and workload distribution, the times are close to ½ in previous years. Most previous years the processing time was between 3-5 days.

Problem:

- Current Hospital and Clinic Staff are leaving due to multiple causes including work environment and working conditions related to COVID-19; work related stress; change in professions.
 - The exodus is causing a workforce shortage.
- The COVID-19 related work environment/conditions that are affecting the Medical Imaging workforce include: vaccine mandate, cleaning, potential exposure, increase in acuity of patients and increase in emergent and inpatient imaging exams orders.
 - The backlog of cases caused by COVID1-19 related issues is increasing the acuity of patients. Patients that were delayed in getting treated are, at this point, in a more critical health status, causing more difficulty in obtaining imaging and work-related injuries to the technologists.
 - Many patients are using Emergency Room care instead of Primary care to address medical issues.
 - There is an increase in interest for Unions to provide a voice and improve work environment conditions.

OBMI Solutions:

- **Recent staff changes have increased Agency Efficiency and lowered response time to Licensure processing and questions.**
 - Revamped and User-Friendly website with easily accessed links
 - Throughout the Pandemic, staff members have been physically in the office or on a rotation basis if illness has occurred. **Current KPM Customer Service: 91.3% of 95% target**
 - All staff have Board issued cellular phones and computers with full access
 - Cultural Competency CE submissions:
 - 90% of Licensees have no issues with Submission of required CE
 - Licensee compliance and reluctance to take the requirement seriously has led to problems for a small number of Licensees
 - Change in database protocols have solved all technical Submission issues
- **Expedited renewal and initial license process with fully automated and electronic licensing and renewal.**
 - Renewals that are complete in submission are consistently processed within 1 business day. There are typically no delays in approving renewals. **Current KPM: 98% of 100% target for 5 business days**
 - New Applications that are complete in submission (including background check) are completed within 2-3 business days. **Current KPM: 98% of 100% target for 5 business days**
 - Delays approving NEW applications are primarily due to lag in FBI/Oregon State Police Background check (currently averaging 2 weeks)



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- OBMI statutes require FBI background checks and historically have proven to be in the best interest for the safety for patients receiving medical imaging exams.
- While compacts with neighboring states may expedite the need for background checks licensure requirements in other states is not necessarily equivalent to Oregon.
- January 2021, with a delay in the effective date due to COVID-19, OBMI Administratively increased fees after 10 years of no fee increases. The increase was ratified by the Legislature this Biennium. The increase was calculated to sustain the Board's Expenditures and provide for an adequate ending balance for the next two to three Biennia. Licensees pay \$216 for a two-year License or Permit.
 - There have been very few Licensees that have complained about the fee increase and for the most part, those that have misgivings about the fees, understand the need for the Board to keep up with inflation.
 - During the pandemic and the fee increase, Licensure increased by 57% with a current estimate of 7,744 ACTIVE licensees
- **OBMI has long established rules to issue Temporary Licenses to students within 6 months prior to graduation** to gain experience, but this also helps with supplementing the workforce availability and providing replacements and additional staff when the student becomes fully credentialed.
- **Physician Assistants (PA) and Advances Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) that obtain an OBMI Fluoroscopy Permit** allows for increased availability to care which is especially helpful in rural areas and state defined critical access facilities. The ability for PA and APRN to help provide fluoroscopy in pain management centers, increases Physician availability for other medical issues.
- **Recent OBMI Employer Training Programs for Limited X-Ray Machine Operators (LXMO) provide a pathway** for clinics to build their own internal supply of temporary and permanent workers that will place them in a better spot to address staff shortages. These LXMO programs train people that are licensed to perform limited imaging procedures, thereby freeing up technologists for more technical cases and procedures.
- **OBMI works closely with Imaging schools:**
 - Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT): Currently graduating 150 students per year and are at regular capacity. OIT is flexible to expand for more students. They have seen a drop in applicants and fewer quality applicants.
 - Portland Community College (PCC): Currently at capacity for their first-year class which will graduate next June (2023) is small, about 28 students. Second year cohorts (class of 2024) are starting out at 38 students. The smaller group for 2023, was due to the clinical sites barring students during the pandemic, and small group teaching limits at the college. Limitations for departmental ratios are caused by short-staffing issues making it difficult to increase the student population.
- **Active Diverse Stakeholder Advisory Committee (CEAC)** that is composed of members from all over the state and various types of medical facilities that meets quarterly and reports to the full Board regarding continuing education and issues concerning current concerns regarding the state of the workforce and rapid evolving changes in healthcare delivery of Medical Imaging.