

**MAMMOGRAPHY QUALITY STANDARDS ACT
POLICY GUIDANCE HELP SYSTEM**

**RadComm, Inc.
20 Rancho Verde
Tijeras, NM 87059
888-497-2923
www.radcomm.net**

Radiologic Technologist New Mammographic Modality Training:
- Full Field Digital Mammography (FFDM)
- Digital Breast Tomosynthesis (DBT) - refer to page 2 discussion

What are examples of new mammographic modalities? What types of training would be acceptable as training in new mammographic modalities?

The term mammographic modality refers to a technology for radiography of the breast. 21 C.F.R. 900.2(z) Examples of long available mammographic modalities are screen-film mammography and xeromammography. An example of a relatively new mammographic modality is full field digital mammography (FFDM). Personnel whose training pertained solely to screen-film mammography would be required to obtain 8 hours of training in FFDM, if they are to begin providing services or interpretations using this modality after April 28, 1999. However, if those personnel gained their experience using investigational FFDM units (units that were used for research purposes before being approved by FDA for commercial distribution), they are considered to have met the 8-hour requirement. New mammographic modality training can be in many forms, including, but not limited to, professional training, special training courses, continuing medical education, and training provided by the manufacturer.

Qualified Instructor (Definition)

900.2(oo) Qualified instructor means an individual whose training and experience adequately prepares him or her to carry out specified training assignments. Interpreting physicians, radiologic technologists, or medical physicists who meet the requirements of section 900.12(a) would be considered qualified instructors in their respective areas of mammography. Other examples of individuals who may be qualified instructors for the purpose of providing training to meet the regulations of this part include, but are not limited to, instructors in a post-high school training institution and manufacturer's representatives.

Some personnel may receive some training in full-field digital mammography as part of their initial qualifications. In addition to counting toward their initial requirements, can this training also be applied to the eight-hour new modality training requirement?

Yes. They may use this training in digital mammography to count toward the eight-hour mammographic modality training.

Radiologic Technologist New Mammographic Modality Training

900.12(a)(2)(iii)(E): Before a radiologic technologist may begin independently performing mammographic examinations using a mammographic modality other than one of those for which the technologist received training under paragraph (a)(2)(ii)(C) of this section, the technologist shall have at least 8 hours of continuing education units in the new modality.

Copies of certificates earned or other documentation from the training provider will suffice for the new mammographic modality training.

DISCUSSION:

**RadComm, Inc.
20 Rancho Verde
Tijeras, NM 87059
888-497-2923
www.radcomm.net**

8 HOURS OF TRAINING IN FULL FIELD DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY
Radiologic Technologist New Mammographic Modality Training - FFDM

On Monday, November 22, 2010, I contacted the MQSA Hotline (1-800-838-7715) for guidance regarding the required technologist training for FFDM. The following day, I received a detailed message from Debbie, MQSA advisor, who defined and explained the training requirements. An explanation follows.

MQSA **DOES NOT** require that the 8-hour FFDM training be in the form of CE credits obtained from a seminar or homestudy product. Although CE credits are an acceptable manner in which to receive the training, it is also acceptable to receive the training in other formats. For example, it is acceptable for another technologist, (RT)(R)(M), who has already been trained in FFDM and has experience with the modality to provide the required training to a new technologist. It is also acceptable to receive the required FFDM training from a medical physicist and/or an applications specialist.

MQSA **DOES NOT** specify the content of the instruction. Information related to image acquisition, patient positioning, equipment operation, technical selections, image critique, and quality control testing as outlined by the manufacturer are examples of information that may be included during the FFDM training sessions.

A fellow technologist who has been adequately trained in FFDM and has experience working with digital mammography can provide FFDM training to a newly hired mammography technologist. **This type of training does NOT earn continuing education credits. However, it does count toward the eight-hour mammographic modality training.**

It is extremely important to obtain documentation from the training provider detailing the dates, location, name of the instructor, and the content of the training. This documentation serves as evidence of the FFDM modality training requirement for MQSA.

RadComm, Inc. is committed to your success in the field of mammography. We hope this information will resolve some of the confusion surrounding digital mammography training. RadComm, Inc. offers a comprehensive package of courses for Initial Training in Mammography that includes 3.5 hours of FFDM training. With an additional 4.5 hours of digital training in the mammographic department, by a qualified and experienced FFDM technologist, the new mammographer will satisfy the MQSA FFDM training requirement.

******* DIGITAL BREAST TOMOSYNTHESIS (DBT) Training Requirements *******

If you are a technologist:

Already trained in FFDM - the FDA requires 8 hours of DBT training.

Not yet trained in FFDM - the FDA requires technologists with only screen-film experience to complete 8 hours of FFDM training, as well as an additional 8 hours of DBT training.