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## **FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO BECOME A MAMMOGRAHY TECHNOLOGIST**

1. You must be ARRT registered, RT(R)  
*or*  
You are licensed by your state to perform radiographs  
*or*  
You are certified in general radiography by a certification body approved by the FDA.
2. You must complete 40 hours of training / education specific to mammography under the supervision of a qualified instructor. The 40 hours must include education in:
  - Anatomy & Physiology of the Breast
  - Mammographic Positioning, Basic and Advanced
  - Breast Compression
  - QA & QC (Analog and Digital questions are on the ARRT registry exam)
  - Breast Implants
3. You must perform 25 mammograms under the supervision of a qualified mammography technologist or radiologist. These exams must be logged and include the date, time, facility, and initials of the supervising technologist. No patient identification is required in order to comply with HIPAA regulations. CALIFORNIA TECHS: SEE THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT NOW. (The 25 supervised mammograms qualify for up to 12.5 hours of the 40 hours of training. This means that you require 27.5 hours of mammography coursework.) The 25 supervised mammograms can be done on an analog or a digital mammography system. However, MQSA requires an additional 8 hours of digital mammography training if you will be working with digital equipment.

When you have completed Steps #1 - #3, you are now qualified under MQSA to perform mammography independently. Your certificate of successful completion from the educational provider AND your patient log demonstrating 25 supervised mammograms must be available for review by the MQSA inspector as evidence of MQSA qualifications. Any questions regarding MQSA regulations should be directed to the FDA Hotline at (800) 838-7715.

Following initial MQSA qualifications, you must remain actively qualified by:

- Obtain 15 continuing education credits in mammography every 3 years. To play it safe, be certain to receive 5 Mammography CE credits per year. The MQSA inspector who visits your facility will verify that you have received these credits.
- You also must perform 200 mammograms every 2 years in order to remain actively qualified. Documentation of these is required and usually available from your facility manager who is able to print a report of your completed examinations.

Even though you are MQSA-qualified, most employers will require that you receive ARRT registration in Mammography. Follow these steps next:

1. Contact the ARRT at (651) 687-0048, extension 8560 (Examination and Certification Department) to request the Mammography Certification Handbook. You may also download and print the information from the ARRT website at [www.arrt.org](http://www.arrt.org). There is no charge for the Certification Handbook.

2. In addition to the 25 supervised mammograms required by MQSA, you must perform an additional 75 mammograms in preparation for the ARRT exam. The 100 total exams must be logged into the Mammography Certification Handbook.
3. You will have to perform additional clinical experience requirements as well that must be completed prior to taking the ARRT Mammography examination, for example:
  - Required tasks for analog or digital QC - perform, evaluate and record results of all QC tests.
  - Observation, assistance or participation with interventional procedures.
  - Review of 20 mammograms with an MQSA-qualified interpreting radiologist in order to evaluate technique, positioning, breast anatomy and physiology.
4. The tasks outlined in the ARRT Mammography Handbook must be completed within 24 months (2-years) of applying for the ARRT Mammography Exam.
5. The ARRT examinations are administered monthly by the Pearson Vue Testing Centers. Locations are listed in the ARRT Mammography Handbook. You can choose the location closest to your residence. It does NOT have to be in your home state.
6. The ARRT requires radiology technologists to obtain 24 continuing education credits during their biennium (every 2 years). Your biennium dates are listed on your ARRT membership card. The ARRT does NOT have specific requirements for mammography. Therefore, you may satisfy your MQSA CE requirement with your ARRT CE requirements. For example, since the ARRT requires 24 credits during your 2-year biennium, you may obtain 10 of those in mammography. Again, play it safe and obtain 5 CE credits per year in mammography. Many technologists who work only in mammography chose to obtain all mammography credits to fulfill their CE requirements.

**ATTENTION CALIFORNIA TECHNOLOGISTS! THE RULES ARE DIFFERENT FOR YOU!**

California state law requires that you do the following in order:

1. Obtain 40 hours of mammography training to include the subject matter listed above.
2. Take and pass the California Mammography Certification examination.
3. Perform 25 mammograms under the supervision of a qualified mammography technologist.
4. Now begin preparation for the ARRT exam with instructions listed above.