
REGULATORY ALERT

TO: JOINT COMMISSION ACCREDITED IMAGING FACILITIES
FROM: PHOENIX TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
DATE: 1/28/2015
RE: REVISED REQUIREMENTS FOR DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES
(CURRENTLY APPLICABLE TO HOSPITALS AND CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS)

On January 9, 2015, The Joint Commission released the Revised Requirements for Diagnostic Imaging Services. These revisions will take effect on July 1, 2015, which means by July 1, 2016, every accredited facility must have had the necessary evaluations performed once in the previous year.

A copy of the publication is attached.

Standard EC.02.01.01

- ❖ A14 – Review facility safety policies and protocols to ensure they address these bullet points.
- ❖ A16 – If Phoenix Technology Corporation (PTC) is performing the annual evaluation at your facility, these items have already been addressed and are in compliance.

Standard EC.02.02.01

- ❖ A17 – Dosimetry records must be reviewed quarterly. If the facility has badged personnel but does not have an RSO, arrangements must be made for a medical physicist or health physicist to review the records quarterly. Please contact PTC for further information.

Standard EC.02.04.01

- ❖ A10 – Each facility should have a program in place that includes testing of the equipment by the physicist and a biomedical team.

Standard EC.02.04.03

- ❖ A17, A19, A20 & A22 – PTC addresses all of these testing items during the annual visit and results are reflected in final reports. We will review all of our reporting templates to ensure that all reports reflect the same wording as used by The Joint Commission.
- ❖ A21 – Nuclear imaging equipment will be tested and results provided in compliance with ACR Standards. PTC's interpretation of "Image uniformity/system uniformity" is that both extrinsic and intrinsic uniformity will be evaluated. The term "High-contrast resolution" is not applicable to nuclear images; however, the "System spatial resolution" is routinely tested, and covers that requirement.

- ❖ A23 – Annual physics surveys for CT, MRI, NM, and PET will include an evaluation of acquisition monitor performance, which will comply with this standard.

Standard EC.02.06.05

- ❖ A4 & A6 – Shielding design has routinely been done for areas that produce ionizing radiation and subsequent integrity tests are performed and reported according to the rules and regulations of each governing State body. The additional requirement for a shielding design in Nuclear Medicine areas will be addressed and PTC will provide the necessary evaluation, shielding design, and integrity survey when needed. Please contact PTC for assistance when any changes are made to any area of the imaging department.

Standard HR.01.02.05

- ❖ C20 – Any evaluation and/or testing performed on your CT unit(s) by PTC will be performed by a qualified individual.

Standard HR.01.05.03

- ❖ C14 & C25 – PTC offers training sessions that will ensure compliance with this standard. Please contact our office to schedule training.

Standard PC.01.02.15

- ❖ C5 – PTC routinely trains staff on the proper way to determine and document $CTDI_{vol}$, DLP and/or SSDE and will evaluate the facility's process/procedures to ensure compliance.
- ❖ A10 & A12 – These items should be addressed via the facility's internal policies and procedures.

Standard PC.01.03.01

- ❖ A25 – PTC physicists are always available to assist with protocol development. This is often a combined effort between physicians, physicists, technologists, and administrators.
- ❖ A26 – PTC is available to review protocols and provide feedback based on current standards of practice. Our annual CT survey includes an evaluation of the routine adult abdomen and head protocols, pediatric abdomen and head protocols, high resolution chest, and brain perfusion protocols. It also involves a spot check of recent exams to identify any problem areas with radiation dose or opportunities for dose/image quality optimization.

Standard PI.01.01.01

- ❖ A46 & A47 – Incidents in the facility MRI department must be tracked and documented. Each facility will develop methodology for compliance.

Standard PI.02.01.01

- ❖ A6 – PTC can assist with the evaluation of collected data when needed.