

**Arkansas Department of Health Radiation Control
Medical Ionizing Radiation Licensure Committee (MIRLC)
Minutes -Tuesday, October 10, 2023; 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Committee members present via Teams were Lisa Rhoden (Board Chair), Shane David, Tracy McKnight, Adriane Travis, Sheila Randolph, Rogerich Paylor, M.D., Richard Nelson, M.D., and Allan Kirkland, M.D. Members not in attendance were Paul Bruce, MS., and Jacovis Davis. Also, in attendance were Connie Melton, Chuck Thompson, Brian Nichols, Reginald Rogers, Laura Shue, S. Craig Smith, Bernard Bevill, Adelia Oldenbroek, Dr. John Meadors, Summer Khairi, and Tiffany Young. This meeting was held virtually via Teams.

Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Lisa called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Adelia Oldenbroek took role. It was determined that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded.

Minutes Review

The minutes from the July 11, 2023, meeting were presented and reviewed. Dr. Nelson made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Dr. Kirkland seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion passed.

Old Business:

PA Topics of Discussion and Supervision of RTL licensees:

Shane David summarized the discussion from the July 11, 2023, MIRLC meeting. Mr. David, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Smith contacted the Arkansas State Medical Board for their interpretation of the definition to practice medicine and spoke with Amy Embrey, the Director of that Board. According to the State Medical Board, PA's are authorized to order and utilize ionizing radiation. However, under the current discussion with the Medical Board, the supervision would not fall under our current definition of licensed practitioner. It is additionally noted that APRN's can prescribe ionizing radiation. Dr. Meadors asked if PA's could perform barium swallow studies with a technologist in the room, if the PA was not supervising the radiologic technologist. Shane explained that it is the supervisory requirement that does not fall under our current definition of licensed practitioner regarding our discussions with the medical board. This would require a law change, then a change in the rule. Mr. Thomas stated, "if the rad tech is not being supervised by the PA and the PA's performing the procedure, then then our code section does not apply, and we have no authority concerning the matter." Mr. David stated that now we know what is needed to change the definition of supervision, which is a law change. Mr. Thompson explained that the Department had a very specific process for changing the legislation. Mr. Thompson suggested that the (RTL) Program gather information from surrounding states regarding PA's and APRN's. Do they supervise radiologic technologist, perform exams using ionizing radiation, and order exams using ionizing radiation.

Diagnostic Mammography MD Present Requirement /information:

During the July 2023 meeting Dr. Meadors expressed there was a lack of radiologists in the state of Arkansas, allowing for adequate coverage. This issue makes it difficult for some rural facilities to offer diagnostic mammograms. Mr. Bevill clarified that this issue doesn't fall under the MIRLC purview but

would require a rule change to the Rules for Control of Sources of Ionizing Radiation. One option for the MIRLC would be to create an ad hoc committee. Dr. Nelson made a motion to create the ad hoc committee and Sheila Randolph seconded the motion. The motion passed. The ad hoc committee would investigate and create a recommendation to present to the MIRLC for their approval supporting a legislative change. Several MIRLC members have volunteered to be on the committee, herself, Dr. Kirkland, Dr. Meadors, Dr. Paylor, and Sheila Randolph. As MIRLC Chair Lisa Rhoden will appoint the ad hoc committee members. It was suggested that the committee also include a mammography technologist and perhaps other interested parties. The names of all nominated individuals will be presented at the January MIRLC meeting.

RH-1610.c.7.A. **Standards for diagnostic mammography.** Facilities who wish to be accredited for diagnostic mammography shall, in addition to meeting all of the requirements for mammography also: A. Have the interpreting physician as defined in RH-1610.c.1.A. present during all diagnostic mammography for direct supervision of the exam and film interpretation.]

Gonad Shielding Requirement Removal:

RH-16.A.6 requires gonadal shielding. An exemption to this rule was presented and rejected by the Board of Health (BOH) during their April board Meeting. During the July MIRLC meeting the committee discussed re-presenting the case. Mr. David asked Ms. Rhoden to provide a bullet point summary to address some of the concerns MIRLC had related to gonadal shielding. This rule will also need to be updated during a future rule revision to the Rules for Control of Sources of Ionizing Radiation. Ms. Rhoden agreed to create the bullet point summary to be presented at the January MIRLC meeting, then to Arkansas Department of Health leadership.

RCES Examination Approval:

The issue of changing the Rules Pertaining to Radiologic Technology Licensure to add the Registered Cardiac Electrophysiology Specialist (RCES) certification as a means of Limited Specialty License along with the Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (RCIS) was discussed. Information about both exams was presented to the MIRLC and reviewed. Tracy McKnight made a motion to draft an amendment to accept the RCES examination as being equivalent to the RCIS examination. Dr. Kirkland seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Appointment Status

Mr. David said that he has not been informed of any MIRLC appointments at this time.

RTL Program Manager Status

Mr. Bevill indicated that he has submitted a hiring packet for the RTL Program Manager position.

Susan Spurlock/Hashmi Medical Associates

Ms. Spurlock is no longer performing x-ray exams. Dr. Hashmi has hired a radiologic technologist.

Ashlee Hall RTLTL 0810020 (90-day extension to 09/30/2023)

Ms. Hall is not currently performing x-ray exams; she is planning to sit for her exam during October 2023.

Emmalee Shaw Temporary License Extension Request, RTLTL 0822181

Ms. Shaw requested a one-year extension of her temporary license. Dr. Paylor suggested we offer Ms. Hall a provisional extension. He suggested that we offer Ms. Shaw the option of studying for her exam for a year, instead of taking advantage of the 90-day extension the MIRLC has decided to approve. After the discussion Adriane Travis made a motion to offer Ms. Hall a provisional extension. Sheila Randolph seconded the motion. The motion passed. The RTL Program staff will inform Ms. Hall of the terms of the provisional extension. If Ms. Shaw accepts the provisional extension the 90 days will start on the day of her acceptance.

Shelly Kern, RTL01-0828180

Information from the ARRT was presented showing that her ARRT Registration has been revoked. After discussion Sheila Randolph made a motion to revoke her Arkansas Radiologic Technology License. Craig Smith, ADH Legal Counsel, informed MIRLC that revocation of a state issued license is a disciplinary action. She has to be notified and go through the administrative hearing process. Ms. Travis made a motion to withdraw the original motion to revoke Ms. Kern's license. Tracy McKnight seconded the motion. Ms. Kern's license will remain in suspended status. The motion passed. ADH RTL Program staff will work with ADH Legal to determine the proper way to proceed.

cense. Adriane Travis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Next Meeting Scheduled

The next two Quarterly Medical Ionizing Radiation Licensure Committee meetings are set for January 9, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. and April 9, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Termination

The meeting ended at 4:54 p.m. with a motion from Adriane Travis and seconded by Tracy McKnight. The motion passed.