

# UPDATE: Standards Changes for Providers of Diagnostic Imaging Services


In the March 2016 issue of *Perspectives\**, The Joint Commission announced the addition of two new Human Resources (HR) elements of performance (EPs) for accredited **hospitals**, **critical access hospitals**, and **ambulatory care** organizations that provide diagnostic imaging services (including those ambulatory care organizations that have achieved Advanced Diagnostic Imaging certification). The new HR requirements, scheduled to become **effective September 1, 2016**, were designed to address expectations for technologists who perform computed tomography (CT) exams.

The first new EP, Standard HR.01.02.05, EP 19, includes a note communicating the expectation that CT technologists obtain advanced-level CT certification by January 1, 2018. The second new EP, Standard HR.01.05.03, EP 26, requires organizations to demonstrate that CT technologists participate in education that prepares them to achieve advanced-level CT certification by January 1, 2018.

Since the publication of these requirements, The Joint Commission has received significant feedback from rural and

critical access hospitals that is focused primarily on the expectation to achieve advanced-level CT certification by January 2018. These customers communicated concerns about their ability to comply with the expectation for advanced-level CT certification and—if this were to be required by 2018—the potential negative impact on patient access to CT services.

Because of these factors, **The Joint Commission has decided to delete Note 1 at Standard HR.01.02.05, EP 19, and suspend implementation of Standard HR.01.05.03, EP 26.** The effective date for Standard HR.01.02.05, EP 19, is still scheduled for September 1, 2016.

The revisions, provided below (deleted language is ~~crossed out~~), will also appear on The Joint Commission website at [http://www.jointcommission.org/standards\\_information/prepublication\\_standards.aspx](http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx). The revisions will be posted in a future E-dition® update and published in future updates of the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manuals* for the Ambulatory Care, Critical Access Hospital, and Hospital Accreditation Programs. Questions may be directed to Joyce Webb, RN, BSN, MBA, CMPE, project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, at [jwebb@jointcommission.org](mailto:jwebb@jointcommission.org). 

\* *The Joint Commission. APPROVED: Standards changes for providers of diagnostic imaging services. Jt Comm Perspect. 2016 Mar;36(3):4–5.*



Official Publication of Joint Commission Requirements

## New and Revised Diagnostic Imaging Requirements

APPLICABLE TO AMBULATORY CARE, CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS, HOSPITALS

Effective September 1, 2016

### Human Resources (HR)

Standard HR.01.02.05

The [organization] verifies staff qualifications.

Element of Performance for HR.01.02.05

A 19. © Technologists who perform diagnostic computed tomography (CT) exams have advanced-level certification by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) or the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) in computed tomography or have one of the following qualifications: <sup>3</sup>

- State licensure that permits them to perform diagnostic CT exams and documented training on the provision of diagnostic CT exams or
- Registration and certification in radiography by

ARRT and documented training on the provision of diagnostic CT exams or

- Certification in nuclear medicine technology by ARRT or NMTCB and documented training on the provision of diagnostic CT exams (See also HR.01.02.01, EP 1; HR.01.02.05, EPs 1–3; HR.01.02.07, EPs 1 and 2; and HR.01.05.03, EP 26)

**Note 1:** *Effective January 1, 2018, all technologists who perform diagnostic computed tomography (CT) exams will be expected to have advanced-level certification in computed tomography.*

**Note 12:** *This element of performance does not apply to CT exams performed for therapeutic radiation treatment planning or delivery, or for calculating attenuation coefficients for nuclear medicine studies.*

**Note 23:** *This element of performance does not apply to dental cone beam CT radiographic imaging studies performed for diagnosis of conditions affecting the maxillofacial region or to obtain guidance for the treatment of such conditions.*

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## New and Revised Diagnostic Imaging Requirements (continued)

Standard HR.01.05.03

Staff participate in ongoing education and training.

### Element of Performance for HR.01.05.03

Ⓒ 26. Ⓓ Technologists who perform diagnostic computed tomography (CT) exams participate in education that prepares them to achieve advanced-level CT certification by January 1, 2018.

**Note 1:** *This element of performance does not apply to*

*CT exams performed for therapeutic radiation treatment planning or delivery, or for calculating attenuation coefficients for nuclear medicine studies.*

**Note 2:** *This element of performance does not apply to dental cone beam CT radiographic imaging studies performed for diagnosis of conditions affecting the maxillofacial region or to obtain guidance for the treatment of such conditions.*