

Fluoroscopy Credentialing at WFUBMC

Resources and Links

[Website link for fluoroscopy information]

Summary Information and Requirements

Fluoroscopy is a process where a continuous x-ray beam is passed through the body part being examined, and is transmitted to a TV-like monitor so that the body part and its motion can be seen in detail. The advantages of real time imaging and the freedom to freely position the X-ray field during examination makes fluoroscopy a very powerful diagnostic tool. However, there are potential health risks to patients whenever ionizing radiation is used in a clinical setting.

Based upon guidelines, standards and informed best practices, WFUBMC has established a requirement that any medical personnel who use fluoroscopy for clinical purposes must be appropriately credentialed to do so. The Fluoroscopy Credentialing Program is administered by WFUHS Environmental Health and Safety (Radiation Safety) under the guidance of the Medical Radiation Safety Committee.

SUMMARY OF THE FLUOROSCOPY CREDENTIALING PROGRAM

Who May Be Credentialed:

- Physicians who are Board Certified in Radiology or Radiation Oncology are considered competent to use fluoroscopic equipment by virtue of prior education and training. No additional credentialing is required.
- Physicians (not Board Certified), Physician Assistants, Radiologic Technologists, Nurse Practitioners and Cardiovascular Interventional Specialists are the only categories of medical personnel who may participate in the WFUBMC Fluoroscopy Credentialing Program.
- Credentials from another institution do not transfer to WFUBMC.

HOW THE CREDENTIALING PROCESS WORKS

The Chair of the departments which practice the use of fluoroscopy is responsible for ensuring that users are credentialed at WFUBMC.

The Radiation Safety Officer advises user department Chairs annually of the credentialing requirement.

Candidates for credentialing must contact WFUHS Environmental Health and Safety to request the educational materials. When ready, the candidate will arrange to sit for a proctored exam (a score of at least 80% is required for passing).

EH&S will provide a certificate of fluoroscopic credentials to successful candidates. There is no requirement, at present, for renewal of credentials on a recurring basis.

The Food and Drug Administration issued a notice to medical centers in 1994 strongly advising those medical personnel who use fluoroscopy to undergo specific training and credentialing to reduce the risk of radiation injury to patients. In 1999 the NCBH Chief of Professional Services issued a memo requiring credentialing for

clinical and research personnel using fluoroscopy; in 2008 the WFUBMC drafted a formal policy and procedure requiring training and credentialing for fluoroscopy.

1. Radiation Safety Officer annually e-mails Chairs in departments that use fluoroscopy:

- Cardiology
- Gastroenterology
- General Surgery
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Pain Control
- Pulmonary & Critical Care
- Urology
- Interventional Radiology

2. Chair notifies any new departmental physicians, residents and fellows of this credentialing requirement; any physicians that are board certified in radiology or radiation oncology are exempt from credentialing. Other medical specialties eligible for credentialing are radiologic technologists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and cardiovascular interventional specialists.
3. Candidate contacts Amy Nelson, EH&S Education Specialist at 6-6084; Amy has candidate sign licensing agreement protecting copyright of educational materials.
4. Amy e-mails candidate training material as a .pdf file; candidate may print out material for self-study.
5. Once candidate feels sufficiently knowledgeable, he/she contacts Amy for a proctored exam. Score of $\geq 80\%$ is passing; Amy prints out certificate for individual to retain. Those who do not pass must take the exam again after a period of re-study.
6. WFUBMC does not allow credentials from other institutions to transfer here: if you are going to perform fluoroscopy here, you must be credentialed here.