

**Information Notice Number 22
(January 2002)**

For Florida Radiation Machine Registrants

Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control

USE OF BONE DENSITOMETERS

With the increased awareness of osteoporosis as a significant health problem in the elderly there has been a rapid growth in the number and variety of radiation machines used to determine bone density as an aid to diagnosis. The following are some key requirements in the State of Florida to keep in mind when using this type of machine.

- All radiation machines must be registered with the radiation machine program office within thirty days of installation and will be inspected at least biennially.
- Examinations must be authorized by a State of Florida licensed practitioner of the healing arts.
- Only examinations for healing arts purposes are allowed. Exposures for training, demonstration, or other purposes are prohibited.
- Advertising free x-rays is prohibited unless the advertisement states there will be a determination of need.
- The radiation machines can only be operated by a State of Florida licensed physician or State of Florida licensed radiologic technologist. Basic x-ray machine operators and general radiographers are the only categories of licensed radiologic technologists who can operate bone densitometers using machine produced radiation.
- Radiologic technologist operators must have machine specific training.
- Basic x-ray machine operators must be directly supervised by a physician (the physician must be in the building). General radiographers must be generally supervised by a physician (must be able to speak with a physician).
- Federal manufacturing requirements, regulations from other states, and statements by manufacturers can not exempt users of radiation machines from the registration, performance, and safety requirements mandated by 64E-5, Florida Administrative Code.

If you have questions or need guidance, please contact this office at:

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