Authorized Nuclear Pharmacist Training Requirements

64B16-28.903 Training Qualifications.

(1) A pharmacist licensed to practice pharmacy in this state who performs a radiopharmaceutical service shall, prior to engaging in such specialized practice, be actively licensed as a nuclear pharmacist from the Board of Pharmacy.

(2) A licensed pharmacist seeking licensure as a nuclear pharmacist in this state shall submit to the Board of Pharmacy a course outline from an accredited college of pharmacy or other program recognized by the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Board of Pharmacy (a program comparable to those offered by accredited colleges of pharmacy for the training of nuclear pharmacists), and a certificate of training which provides a minimum of 200 clock hours of formal didactic training, which includes:

(a) Radiation physics and instrumentation (85 hours);

(b) Radiation protection (45 hours);

(c) Mathematics pertaining to the use and measurement of radioactivity (20 hours);

(d) Radiation biology (20 hours);

(e) Radiopharmaceutical chemistry (30 hours).

(3) Such academic training programs will be submitted to the Board for approval by an accredited educational institution which operates under the auspices of or in conjunction with an accredited college of pharmacy.

(4) The minimum on-the-job training which shall be included in a radiopharmacy internship is five hundred (500) hours of training and experience in the handling of unsealed radioactive material under the supervision of a licensed nuclear pharmacist. The training and experience shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

(a) Ordering, receiving and unpackaging in a safe manner, radioactive material, including the performance of related radiation surveys;

(b) Calibrating dose calibrators, scintillation detectors, and radiation monitoring equipment;

(c) Calculating, preparing and verifying patient doses, including the proper use of radiation shields;

(d) Following appropriate internal control procedures to prevent mislabeling;

(e) Learning emergency procedures to safely handle and contain spilled materials, including related decontamination procedures and surveys;

(f) Eluting technetium-99m from generator systems, assaying the eluate for technetium-99m and for molybdenum-99 contamination, and processing the eluate with reagent kits to prepare technetium-99m labeled radiopharmaceuticals;

(g) Clinical practice concepts.

(5) Guidelines for such programs are in a publication entitled "Guidelines for Florida Board of Pharmacy Internship Training in Radiopharmacy" (1988). Governmental and private radiopharmacy internship programs shall not apply to the pharmacy internship required under Rule 64B16-26.401, F.A.C.

(6) If the didactic and experiential training required in this section have not been completed within the last seven years, the applicant must have been engaged in the lawful practice of nuclear pharmacy in another jurisdiction at least 1080 hours during the last seven years.

(7) The Board of Pharmacy shall, subsequent to its review of the certificates of training, inform each applicant in writing as to whether or not licensure has been granted.

Specific Authority 465.005 FS. Law Implemented 465.003(14), 465.0126 FS. History–New 4-17-76, Amended 4-8-80, 6-23-83, Formerly 21S-3.05, Amended 8-11-86, 4-4-88, Formerly 21S-3.005, Amended 7-31-91, Formerly 21S-28.903, 61F10-28.903, Amended 6-12-96, Formerly 59X-28.903.