

Bone Densitometry Equipment Operator Guidance

12/15/2021

Application

Process

The Bone Densitometry Equipment Operator (BDEO) application and fee process is the same for the initial BDEO application and the retake BDEO application. Once the BDEO exam is passed, it does not have to be retaken.

BDEO applicants only need to pass the BDEO exam and do not need to pass the core module to operate a bone densitometry x-ray system.

Open Application

If a current application for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT) Radiologic Technologist (RT) exam, Limited Scope X-ray Operator (LSXO), or BDEO exams is pending, applicants cannot apply for another exam until the pending exam is passed and/or application is closed.

Close Application

To close a BDEO application, the applicant needs to send a written request to ARRT. At that time, the applicant agrees to forfeit their fees to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and ARRT. When approved by ARRT, the applicant can resubmit a new BDEO application and the old BDEO application will be closed.

Payments

MDH Fees

Applicants will mail the completed BDEO registration application and include a \$25.00 money order or cashier's check payable to MDH. The mailing address for the BDEO application is Minnesota Department of Health Radiation Control, X-ray Unit; PO Box 64497 St. Paul, MN 55164-0497.

Personal or business checks are not acceptable and will be destroyed. Fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

ARRT Fees

After receiving notification from MDH, the applicant will pay the ARRT exam fee of \$150.00 by credit card, debit card, or gift card on their website at <https://state.arrt.org/>. ARRT does not accept money orders, cashier checks, personal checks, or business checks.

For ARRT online payments, a separate username and password needs to be created for each applicant. A business or school making an online payment for multiple applicants cannot use the same username and password for all their applicants.

Exam

Handbook and Candidate Status Report

ARRT will send applicants the BDEO exam handbook and Candidate Status Report (CSR) that explains the exam process. The CSR contains your identification information, permanent ARRT assigned ID number, and examination window dates. This handbook and CSR will be sent to the applicant after the ARRT processes the exam fee.

Applicants will have a 90-day exam window to take the exam. MDH strongly recommends scheduling an exam right away, as exam sites fill up quickly.

Extending an Exam Window

If an extension to the 90-day exam window is needed, requests should be received one week prior to the window expiration date. BDEO exam window extension requests will be sent to MDH by email to health.xray@state.mn.us. Extending an exam window is limited to three extensions.

Passing Scores

MDH will notify approved applicants of their BDEO exam score and if the individual has passed. Passing rate is 70% for the BDEO exam.

Applicants will receive a registration certificate for passing the BDEO exam. An individual is not authorized to operate a bone densitometry x-ray system until they receive a registration certificate from MDH in the mail. The registration certificate will indicate the individual has passed the BDEO exam and will be registered with MDH.

Registration certificates must be available at the time of the inspection for MDH inspectors to review operator qualifications.

Failures

If an applicant fails the BDEO exam, they will need to retake and pass the BDEO exam to be qualified to operate a bone densitometry x-ray system.

Minnesota Registered Bone Densitometry Equipment Operators

Passing the BDEO exam limits the individual to only operating a bone densitometry system. MDH does not establish limitations on the type of bone densitometry imaging the operator can perform with a bone densitometry system. Passing the BDEO exam covers scanning of these three regions: lumbar spine, proximal femur, and forearm.

BDEO must not operate fluoroscopy, computed tomography (CT), cone beam computed tomography (CBCT), radiographic, mammography x-ray systems, or perform x-ray procedures where contrast media is used.

Minnesota Registered Limited Scope X-ray Operators

LSXO who have passed the core, spine, and extremity modules are not qualified to operate a bone densitometry x-ray system. Individuals are required to pass the BDEO exam to be qualified to operate a bone densitometry x-ray system.

Bone Density Equipment Operators from Out-of-State

Individuals who have taken the BDEO exam from another state are not qualified to operate a bone densitometry x-ray system in Minnesota. Individuals must take and pass the BDEO exam and be registered with Minnesota.

Grandfathered-in Operators

Individuals who passed the X-ray Operator exam prior to January 1, 2008, are grandfathered x-ray operators and do not need to take this exam if the individual has the original certificate or the original letter of passing the exam to operate x-ray systems. If an individual does not have proof of certification or letter, MDH does not have a copy. The individual must take and pass the BDEO exam to operate a bone densitometry x-ray system.

Minnesota Department of Health
Radiation Control, X-ray Unit
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St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-4545
health.xray@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us/xray

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4545.