

March 17, 2020

To our valued clients and colleagues,

CAMP Leadership continues monitor the latest COVID-19 updates from the CDC, NIAID, and WHO, as well as new federal, state, and local guidelines as they are released. Our top priorities are 1) keeping both our employees and their families safe, especially those who may be considered high-risk, and 2) keeping patients and staff at facilities safe from potential asymptomatic exposure from one of our workers while on site, all the while continuing to provide services related to patient care.

As you may be aware, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has granted a 6-month extension for all x-ray equipment certifications due in the months of March, April, May and June of 2020. This includes radiographic, dental, fluoroscopic, and CT units. Note that this **does not apply to newly installed CT machines**, which are still required to be tested prior to patient use.

Additionally, the ACR has granted a 16-month inspection window from the date of prior physicist evaluation for all accredited CT, MRI, Ultrasound, and Nuclear Medicine/PET machines. Note that this currently **does not apply to Mammography units**, which have a 14-month inspection window from the date of prior physicist evaluation.

As of today, The Joint Commission has not commented on extending their required 13-month testing window from date of previous physicist evaluation. This applies to CT, MRI, Fluoroscopy, Nuclear Medicine/PET equipment at TJC-accredited facilities. We will continue to monitor any extensions as they are published.

We understand that medical imaging resources will undoubtedly be strained in the coming weeks and months, and we don't want to complicate their utilization with our presence if it is not necessary. We are working to prioritize mammography, new CTs, past-due equipment, and imaging equipment that is currently due for TJC-accredited sites over the coming weeks.

Please know that we are informing staff to take every necessary precaution while on-site at your facilities, and are closely following all CDC, NIH, and WHO guidelines for preventing contamination and spread of COVID-19. You can see a timeline of our communication at <a href="https://campphysics.com/covid-19-response/">https://campphysics.com/covid-19-response/</a>, and we updating this regularly as new information is distributed. We ask that if there are any site-specific procedures regarding Personal Protective Equipment, non-essential personnel, etc., that you clearly communicate that to CAMP associates directly.

It is our intention to begin limiting physicist on-site visits over the next 3 weeks as we proceed through the 'flattening phase' of this pandemic, and this may be extended further due to changing recommendations from health officials as well as policy at our client facilities. We are suspending radioactive materials license audits until further notice, and we are asking that you help us to facilitate teleconferencing options for meetings such as Radiation Safety Committee meetings, etc. Fortunately, much of the work that we do as Radiation Safety Officers for your sites can be done remotely, and we will continue to be available by phone and email.



That said, we will continue to support all direct patient care procedures such as Y90 embolization, I-131 ablations, and I-131 MIBG procedures. Moreover, we will continue to selectively schedule physicist equipment evaluations that may be due in the coming weeks according to the above stipulations.

We want to hear from you. We want to accommodate your needs and concerns considering patient, staff, and physicist safety. You reserve the right to suspend or limit physicist site-visits for the purpose of equipment inspections, or alternatively, you can work with your CAMP physicist to selectively schedule only inspections deemed necessary in the coming weeks and months, at your discretion, and according to regulations. Our physicists can help navigate you through those decisions.

An additional option would be to work directly with your physicist to identify ideal times for equipment testing that maximizes social distancing and doesn't interfere with utilization. This option will be dependent on after-hours access and physicist availability, however, to be determined on a case-by-case basis. We can work with you on this. Ironically, as some outpatient facilities, as well as some hospital departments are closing temporarily during this time, that affords us an ideal opportunity to test equipment in a relatively safe setting, ideal for social distancing. We appreciate being able to take advantage of these potential openings so as not to create a backlog of inspections due later in the year.

Finally, we also want to provide some innovative opportunities for partnership as we navigate this health crisis together. Please let us know if we can support you in any additional ways in the coming weeks and months. We can absolutely assist with CT Lung protocol design and development for COVID-19 patients, adopting policies and procedures to help stem infection when taking radiographs for patients with suspected disease, or loading diagnostic protocols onto scanners not previously used for routine diagnostic imaging. We can help share the burden of tasks if essential staff is being diverted to other responsibilities; tasks such as MRI safety screening. We are here for you and want to support your facilities in any way that we can.

As always, we appreciate your partnership, and stand ready to help meet the needs of your facility during this most challenging time.

Holding fast,

Bradk. Joffer

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