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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

www.kdheks.gov

Division of Environment

December 13, 2007

KANSAS INFORMATION NOTICE 07-05
CT REQUIREMENTS FOR PEDIATRIC AND SMALL ADULT PATIENTS

Addressees

This notice is addressed to all Kansas registrants of CT scanners.

Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to highlight the regulatory requirement to have available technique charts for operation of CT scanners.

Description of Circumstances

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recognizes the importance of utilization of CT scanning to assist in diagnosis and treatment injury and disease in patients. The Food and Drug Administration Notification, "FDA Public Health Notification: Reducing Radiation Risk from Computed Tomography for Pediatric and Small Adult Patients" was released on November 2, 2001 and can be found at <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/110201-ct.html>. The FDA has several recommendations for ensuring that exposure to radiation be kept as low as reasonable achievable (ALARA). The three main recommendations are to optimize CT settings, reduce the number of multiple scans with contrast material and to eliminate inappropriate referrals for CT. The National Cancer Institute has a fact sheet for Health Care providers that is titled, "Radiation Risks and Pediatric Computed Tomography (CT): A Guide for Health Care Providers", that can be found at <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/causes/radiation-risks-pediatric-CT>. These references should be helpful in educating your CT staff.

Discussion

The KDHE Kansas Radiation Protection Regulations inspections will include inspection of available technique charts for pediatric and small adult patients. The purpose of including inspection of these charts is to ensure that the following regulatory requirements are being met and to reduce risk to patients from radiation exposure above what is required to obtain quality diagnostic images.

The Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R), 28-35-242a, Administrative requirements, states,

Radiation safety requirements. Each registrant shall be responsible for directing the operation of each X-ray system under the registrant's administrative control. The registrant or the registrant's agent shall ensure that the requirements of this part, which shall include the following requirements, are met.

28-35-242a(3)(A). The technique factors to be utilized, taking into account the patient's body part and anatomical size, body part thickness and age.

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Further, the KAR 28-35-248a, Computed tomography (CT) X-ray systems, states,

28-35-248a(d)(4)(B). Information shall be available at the control panel regarding the operation and calibration of the system. This information shall include the following.

28-35-248a(d)(4)(B)(iv). A current technique chart available at the control panel that specifies, for each routine examination, the CT conditions of operation and the number of scans per examination.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact our office.