

PROBLEM #1-GXMO Supervision

General X-Ray Machine Operators (GXMOs) are trained to perform radiologic procedures (ORC Sec. 4773.06). Unfortunately, under current Ohio law, GXMOs can only perform these procedures if a supervising physician is in the “immediate presence” of the GXMO. This requirement may work in a large integrated health system where doctors are always on-site, it does NOT work in remote/rural urgent care facilities where doctors, while readily available, are not always “on-site”.

SOLUTION

Amend 4773.06 to allow GXMOs to perform radiologic procedures under the “immediate presence” of a Certified Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant. A CNP or PA would still be required to work under the direction of a physician and/or pursuant to a Standard Care Arrangement. A physician would always be “readily available”, but not on-site.

SAFEGUARDS

This change in statute would ONLY apply when a GXMO is performing radiologic procedures with an x-ray machine. Not with other more sophisticated machines like a CT scan or MRI.

RATIONALE

Urgent Care Facilities are intended to provide access to healthcare in the community. These facilities provide patients with access to urgent and specialized care and thereby avoiding hospital emergency rooms or specialty departments used for more serious patient needs.

Urgent Care Facilities are routinely staffed by a Certified Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant, under the general supervision of a physician. While the supervising physician is readily available, he or she may not always be on-site while care is provided. This “model” works with most allied professionals, but not for GXMOs due to ORC Sec.4773.06.

PROBLEM #2-Expand Workforce of GXMOs

Currently in Ohio there are only 800 (approx.) licensed GXMOs - far less than needed to service Ohio, especially in rural communities.

No other state in the country has a clinician known as a GXMO, and Ohio's licensure exam is unique to the state. Most states have a similar clinician known as a Limited Scope RT (Limited Scope of Practice in Radiology). These individuals receive their licensure after having passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (AART) exam.

SOLUTION

Amend 4773.02 to allow individuals who have successfully passed the AART exam to apply for a license as a GXMO in Ohio. This will provide reciprocity for individuals from other states to be employed as a GXMO in Ohio, after passing the nationally recognized AART exam.