

meet applicable laws and regulations and have an acceptable record of accurate, timely services. Patients are informed when an outside source of services is owned by the referring physician.

Measurable Elements of AOP.05.00

1. Radiology and diagnostic imaging services meet applicable professional standards local and national laws and regulations.
2. Radiology and diagnostic imaging services are available to meet the needs related to the hospital's patient population, scope of services, and emergency needs, including after normal hours.
3. ② The hospital maintains a list of experts in specialized diagnostic areas and ensures that the list is accessible to staff who need it.
4. Outside sources are selected based on recommendations of the individual responsible for radiology and diagnostic imaging services and have an acceptable record of timely performance and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Standard AOP.05.01

A qualified individual(s) is responsible for managing the radiology and diagnostic imaging services, and individuals with proper qualifications and experience perform diagnostic imaging studies, interpret the results, and report the results.

Intent of AOP.05.01

Radiology and diagnostic imaging services are managed by an individual who is qualified to ensure that services meet patient needs, laws, and regulations. Qualified radiology and diagnostic imaging staff are needed to perform tests and interpret results to ensure that the data collected through these services are accurate.

Radiology and diagnostic imaging services, provided at any location in the hospital, are under the direction of an individual who is qualified by documented education, training, and experience, consistent with applicable laws and regulations. This individual assumes professional responsibility for the radiology and diagnostic imaging facility, the equipment, and the services provided.

When this individual provides clinical consultation or medical opinion, they are a physician, preferably a radiologist. When special services are provided, they are under the direction of appropriately qualified individuals. Examples of special services include the following:

- Radiation therapy
- Nuclear medicine
- Interventional radiology
- Neurointerventional radiology
- Cardiac catheterization

The radiology and diagnostic imaging leader's responsibilities include the following:

- Developing, implementing, and maintaining policies and procedures
- Overseeing administrative tasks
- Overseeing quality control
- Developing and implementing a staffing program
- Recommending outside sources of radiology and diagnostic imaging services
- Monitoring and reviewing all radiology and diagnostic imaging services

The hospital identifies which radiology and diagnostic imaging staff members perform diagnostic and imaging studies; are qualified to interpret the results or to verify and report results; and direct or supervise the processes.

Supervisory staff and technical staff have appropriate and adequate training, experience, and skills and are oriented to their responsibilities. Technical staff members are given work assignments consistent with their training and experience. In addition, there is a sufficient number of staff to perform, to interpret, and to report

studies within a time frame defined by hospital policy and to provide necessary staffing during all hours of operation and for emergencies.

Measurable Elements of AOP.05.01

1. Radiology and diagnostic imaging services are under the direction of one or more qualified individuals. (*See also* GLD.06.00, ME 1)
2. Responsibilities of the individual managing radiology and diagnostic imaging services include the following:
 - Developing, implementing, and maintaining policies and procedures
 - Overseeing administrative tasks
 - Overseeing quality control
 - Developing and implementing a staffing program
 - Recommending outside sources of radiology and diagnostic imaging services
 - Monitoring and reviewing all radiology and diagnostic imaging services
3. Staff with proper qualifications and experience perform diagnostic and imaging studies.
4. Staff with proper qualifications and experience interpret study results and verify and report the results within the time frame defined by hospital policy.
5. There is an adequate number of staff to meet patient needs and the hospital's scope of services.
6. Radiology and diagnostic imaging supervisory staff have proper qualifications and experience for the role.

Standard AOP.05.02

A radiation and/or diagnostic imaging safety program for patients, staff, and visitors is implemented and is compliant with applicable professional standards, laws, and regulations.

Intent of AOP.05.02

Radiation exposure can pose potential risk of long-term damage, so the hospital has a responsibility to implement a radiation safety program to protect patients, staff, and visitors from unnecessary or excessive exposure to radiation.

Risks of long-term damage depend on the dose of radiation delivered and the length and frequency of exposure to radiation. The higher the radiation dose, the greater the risk for long-term damage, and repeated doses have a cumulative effect presenting greater risks. The diagnostic procedures most commonly associated with avoidable radiation doses are computed tomography (CT), nuclear medicine, and fluoroscopy. A radiation safety program is important in the safe use of ionizing radiation, including radioactive materials (RAM) and radiation producing machines.

Health care providers weigh the medical necessity of the exposure to radiation for diagnosis or treatment against the risks. Unnecessary exposure to radiation should be avoided. The hospital follows the principles of ALARA (maintain all radiation exposures as low as reasonably achievable).

Diagnostic imaging, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and ultrasonography (US), does not use ionizing radiation, and therefore the risks from radiation are not present. There are other risk-related diagnostic imaging services that need to be addressed. Hazards from MRI include the following:

- Exposure to a strong magnetic field
- Presence of cryogenic gases used to cool the magnets of the MRI
- Exposure to acoustic noise

The hospital has a radiation and diagnostic imaging safety program that includes all components of the hospital's radiology and diagnostic imaging services, including radiation oncology and the cardiac catheterization laboratory. The safety program addresses the risks and hazards encountered and implements safety practices and prevention measures for radiology and diagnostic imaging staff, patients, and visitors. The program is coordinated with the hospital's facility management and infection prevention and control programs.