Policy Title:	Professional Standards – Physicists		
Section:	Quality Management	**Reference No.**	SG 020
Effective:	November 2001	**Revision:**	December 2017

1. SCOPE

Breast Screening Program Physicists

2. BACKGROUND

An organized approach to high quality screening mammography is reliant upon adoption of best practices for all aspects of the Breast Screening Program.

The physicist's knowledge will include the physics of mammography, systems components and performance, safety procedures, acceptance testing, quality control and CAR - Mammography Accreditation Program requirements.

The physicist is responsible for the initial equipment acceptance testing, conducting/overseeing annual quality control testing and performing any required physics testing for component changes or replacement (firmware upgrade, detectors, tubes, etc.) of the mammography system used at the breast screening facilities for screening mammography operation. The physicist will also provide consultation to any issues related to image quality, dose and radiation safety concerns raised by the breast screening program facilities for screening mammography operation.

3. POLICY

The Breast Screening Program has established the following professional standards for the imaging professionals involved in the program:

Qualification Requirements

1. Minimum of a Master's Degree in Medical Physics.

2. Have performed at least three (3) mammography site visits under direct supervision of a certified mammography physicist.

3. Have performed at least three (3) mammography site visits independently with the final report reviewed and countersigned by a certified mammography physicist.

Excellent written and verbal communication skills when interacting with technology staff, radiologists and service / manufacturer personnel.

Training

The physicist will work towards attaining accreditation in mammography physics from the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine (CCPM).

CME

The physicist must obtain at least 15 hours of CME credits over three (3) years in mammography physics, mammography quality control, or mammography technology advancement.

Practice Minimums

1. Perform at least four (4) full mammography facility assessments each year.
2. Participate in regular Breast Screening Quality Assurance Support meetings.
3. All reports to be reviewed by the CAR must be countersigned by a physicist certified in mammography by the CCPM.

4. RELATED POLICIES

5. RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Screening Operations Director