

THE TENNESSEE RADIOLOGIC IMAGING AND RADIATION THERAPY BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Frequently Asked Questions

The Tennessee Radiologic Imaging and Radiation Therapy Board of Examiners, (“Board”) would like to provide notice that the rules for this Board will be effective June 6, 2022. Our system will be under construction implementing the necessary changes because of the implementation of the rules. The following is important information concerning individuals who will be subject to the new rules as well as those currently and previously licensed by the Board of Medical Examiners and Board of Osteopathic Examination as an x-ray operators.

1. Who needs to be licensed under the Board of Radiologic Imaging and Radiation Therapy?

All persons performing radiologic imaging, radiography, or radiation therapy procedures in hospitals, outpatient diagnostic centers, recuperation centers, physicians’ offices, or any other setting for human subjects must be licensed by the Board. Rule 0880-15-.04 (2) provides for exemptions to the licensure requirement.

2. Do individuals who are credentialed through A.R.R.T, N.M.T.C.B or another certification organization need to apply for a license under the Board?

Yes. A certification issued by a national certification organization is separate, distinct, and does not equate to a license issued by the Board. State licensure is required if the individual is going to perform radiologic imaging, radiography or radiation therapy procedures in hospitals, outpatient diagnostic centers, recuperation centers, physicians’ offices, or any other setting for human subjects.

3. Do x-ray operators in dental or chiropractic offices need to be licensed under the Board?

No. T.C.A. 63-6-902(g)(6) defines physician’s offices as anywhere the practice of medicine as defined in 63-6-204, or the practice of osteopathic medicine as defined in 63-9-106 includes the performance of radiologic imaging or radiation therapy procedures contemplated by this section is conducted.

4. Is there a grandfather clause in the statute for those individuals currently performing radiologic imaging, radiography, or radiation therapy procedures in hospitals, outpatient diagnostic centers, recuperation centers, or any other setting for human subjects?

No.

5. When can I apply for a license under the new Board?

Applications became available on April 1, 2022. The new application, which can be found on our website for both full and limited licenses can be found here:

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<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/xray-board/xray-board/applications.html>. Currently, the Board's administrative office is only able to accept paper applications.

6. What is the cost of a full or limited license?

The total cost for either a full or limited license is \$110.

7. What if my certification with the Board of Medical Examiners or Board of Osteopathic Examination is currently active, do I need to do anything?

No. Individuals who hold a current full x-ray certification in good standing issued by the Board of Medical Examiners or Board of Osteopathic Examination will, as of the effective date of the rules, have their certification automatically converted to a full license issued by the Board per Rule 0880-15-.05(7)(a).

Individuals who hold a current limited x-ray certification in good standing issued by the Board of Medical Examiners or Board of Osteopathic Examination will, as of the effective date of the rules, have their certification automatically converted to a limited license issued by the Board per Rule 0880-15-.06(6)(a).

Individuals who hold a current limited x-ray certification in bone densitometry in good standing issued by the Board of Medical Examiners or Board of Osteopathic Examination will, as of the effective date of the rules, have their certification automatically converted to a limited license in bone densitometry issued by the Board per Rule 0880-15-.07(6)(a).

8. What if my certification with the Board of Medical Examiners or Board of Osteopathic Examination is currently not active?

If your certification is currently expired, retired or otherwise inactive and you wish to hold an active license, you must apply for a new license under the new Board in accordance with Rule 0880-15-.05 (full license), Rule 0880-15-.06 (limited license), or Rule 0880-15-.07 (limited license in bone densitometry).

9. What if my certification with the Board of Medical Examiners or Board of Osteopathic Examination is under a disciplinary order, do I need to do anything?

If you have not fully complied with all the terms of your disciplinary order as of the effective date of the rules, you will be required to apply for a new license pursuant to

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Rule 0880-15-.05 (full license), Rule 0880-15-.06 (limited license), or Rule 0880-15-.07 (limited license in bone densitometry).

10. Can I still renew my certification with the Board of Medical Examiners or Board of Osteopathic Examination?

If your certification expires before May 31, 2022, please renew your certification by March 31, 2022. You can renew online at: [Public Online Services \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/public-online-services). Failure to renew by this date will result in a delay to renew your certification; however, your certification will remain in active status. The administrative office will resume processing renewals after the effective date of the rules.

11. If my certification is automatically converted to either a full or limited license can I upgrade my license to include additional specialty areas?

Individuals who have had their certification automatically converted to a full license may upgrade their license to include additional specialty areas *without paying* the license upgrade fee by submitting a certification transfer form obtained by the Board's administrative office along with proof of current, unrestricted certification by a national certification organization in the applicable specialty area within sixty (60) days from the effective date of the rules.

Individuals who have had their certification automatically converted to a full license but failed to upgrade their license within sixty (60) days from the effective date of these rules can upgrade their license by paying the license upgrade fee and by submitting proof of current, unrestricted certification by a national organization in the applicable specialty area.

12. Do individuals need to be credentialed in a specialty area to obtain an endorsement in that specialty area and perform radiologic imaging or radiation therapy procedures in that specialty area?

Yes. Upon approval for issuance of a license, the Board shall issue a license with endorsements for the applicable specialty area(s) as reflected by the application materials received which include proof of current and unrestricted certification by a national certification organization containing all applicable credentials. Licensees must practice radiation therapy or radiologic imaging only in the specialty areas that are indicated on the license as issued or upgraded and only for the types of imaging and procedures specified in these rules.

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- 13. I am currently certified by a national certification organization; however, I have training in other specialty areas based on my employment that I am not credentialed in can those specialty areas be added to my license?**

No. Upon approval for issuance of a license, the Board shall issue a license with endorsements for the applicable specialty area(s) as reflected by the application materials received which include proof of current and unrestricted certification by a national certification organization containing all applicable credentials.

- 14. The application asks for proof of a current unrestricted certification by a national organization, containing all applicable credentials; however, my national organization no longer issues paper credential cards. What document will suffice?**

Primary source verification can be obtained from your national organization's website and will satisfy this requirement.

- 15. Can I later upgrade my existing license with additional specialty area endorsements?**

Yes. Licensees may upgrade an existing license with additional specialty area endorsements by submitting an upgrade request form to the Board's administrative office and by submitting proof of current, unrestricted certification by a national certification organization in the applicable specialty area(s) and pay the license upgrade fee required in Rule 0880-15-.02(5)

- 16. What is the cost of the license upgrade fee?**

The total cost is \$25. There is not a \$25 charge for each additional specialty area unless a licensee submits an upgrade request form to the Board's administrative office at different times.

- 17. What happens if I currently have an application in process under the Board of Medical Examiners or Board of Osteopathic Examination?**

All current applications in process must be complete and have final consultant approval by March 31, 2022.

- 18. What happens if my application under the Board of Medical Examiners or Board of Osteopathic Examination is incomplete without final approval by March 31, 2022?**

Applications with deficiencies after this date will be required to complete an application under the new Board. To proceed with a request for licensure under the new Board please complete the new application, which can be found on our website here:

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<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/xray-board/xray-board/applications.html>. We will hold your documents in anticipation that you will mail in this new application. Any fees you previously paid will be honored and applied to the new application.

19. How do I complete the criminal background check process and what is the OCA number?

Follow [this link](#) for instructions on how to complete your background check. For applicants living out of state, please note that results are typically quicker when fingerprints are electronically scanned; therefore, if you are going to be in Tennessee anytime during the application process, it may be to your benefit to schedule a fingerprint scan rather than submitting a fingerprint card. The OCA Code for the Board is 5200.

20. I used the medical x-ray operator OCA number 1637 or the osteopathic x-ray operator OCA number 1944, will this be accepted for the new Board and suffice for my criminal background check?

Yes, contingent that the criminal background check is within the last six (6) months.

21. How long will it take for my application to be approved and for my license to be issued?

The application process varies from applicant to applicant. Because some documents must be received directly from the primary source (i.e., criminal background check, etc.) you may think your application is complete because you have provided all the information you are responsible for providing, but another party may have not submitted a required document. If necessary, documentation has not been received when your application has been received by the Board office, an initial deficiency letter will be sent to you via US mail. The supporting documentation requested in the letter must be received in the Board office ninety (90) days from the date of the initial deficiency letter. Files not completed within ninety (90) days will be closed.

22. When will temporary authorization to practice letters be issued?

Temporary authorization to practice letters will be issued starting June 6, 2022, when the rules become effective. If it is determined that the applicant has met all the requirements for licensure, the applicant will be issued a temporary authorization to practice, and once the temporary authorization is issued, the applicant is then authorized to practice in this State until the Board makes a final determination on the application for licensure. Such temporary authorization, once issued, shall be deemed to be a valid license for all purposes, granting to the applicant all rights that would attach if the person had been issued a permanent license at

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that time. In no event shall the temporary authorization to practice be effective for longer than a six (6) month period measured from the date of issuance.

23. What happens if my license is not issued by June 6, 2022.

The department is currently exploring options to facilitate the processing and approval of these new licenses. Please anticipate further information from the department.

Please note again the effective date of the new Rules on June 6, 2022. Also provided is the link to the Rules here: https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules_filings/03-05-22.pdf