



March 2011

Do You Need Help?

If you have any questions or need to contact us for physics testing, radiation shielding evaluations, or radiation safety training, please call or email us at anytime at the following:

General Diagnostic (Including CR, DR, Shielding, State Regulations & Annual Audits):

Jeremy Hulteen
Phone: 218-786-1028
jhulteen@smdc.org
jhulteen@rpcphysics.com

David Eastman
218-786-1026
deastman@smdc.org
deastman@rpcphysics.com

Mammography, CT & MRI:

Steven Nicholas
218-786-1025
snicholas@smdc.org
snicholas@rpcphysics.com

William Duppler
218-786-1027
wduppler@smdc.org
wduppler@rpcphysics.com

Nuclear Medicine & RSO:

Douglas Bennett
218-786-1823
dbennett@smdc.org
dbennett@rpcphysics.com

RPCPhysics.com Our New Face for the Radiology World

We are excited to inform everyone that Radiation Physics Consultants now has a website to offer our clients quick access to helpful information. We hope our website becomes another tool that RPC offers to help you and your staff improve your diagnostic image quality and ultimately patient care. You will find our website at: <http://rpcphysics.com>.

At rpcphysics.com you will find access to contact information for all of RPC staff. Although everyone at RPC is more than happy to assist you with any type of questions, each member of RPC has their own areas of expertise. The Contact Us section will provide the name and contact information of the person who can best answer your questions in the quickest manner.

The Services section explains the various physics and quality assurance services which we provide. Services include: Equipment Surveys, Image Quality/Dose Evaluation, Accreditation Testing, RSO Services (including annual RSO Audits) and Radiation Shielding Evaluations. You can even Request a Quote for new equipment, additional services or even first time physics services.

Many hospitals, clinics, chiropractors and dentists overlook the need for a Radiation Shielding Evaluation for new or replaced radiation producing equipment (even structural changes to the room). Facilities often call us to determine if their specific situation requires a new shielding evaluation. Due to the complexity of state regulations, we have provided a few example scenarios to better explain the requirements. You can download a list of specific information RPC requires to perform a shielding evaluation, greatly reducing the time and hassle for your shielding project.

Mammography facilities will be very happy to know that we now keep the most up to date Mammography Physicist's Credentials online. Since MQSA requires you to have updated credentials at the time of the inspection, you can quickly download the newest credentials right before your next MQSA inspection. Now you do not need to stress as you wait for a fax, while the inspector stands next to you.

We even provide links to several important and Helpful Websites in the radiology field. We include links to state and federal regulations, accreditation agencies, and other informative websites. We are always on the look out for additional useful websites, so please email us with any suggestions.

We hope you will find rpcphysics.com to be useful and informative. If you have any questions which the website cannot easily answer, please contact us. We still want all of our clients to regularly talk with us to be sure all your questions and concerns are answered. Besides, a website is never as friendly as a personal phone call.



New RPC Email Addresses

Along with our new rpcphysics.com website, we have added new email addresses for all of our staff.

Douglas Bennett
dbennett@rpcphysics.com

Steven Nicholas
snicholas@rpcphysics.com

Jeremy Hulteen
jhulteen@rpcphysics.com

David Eastman
deastman@rpcphysics.com

William Duppler
wduppler@rpcphysics.com

We will continue to monitor and reply to all emails sent to our normal email addresses. We wanted to inform our clients as we begin to transition into the new email format.

As our older email addresses use the name@smdc.org format, these address will also change in the future as the Essentia Health alterations are made throughout those systems. We will be sure to send out informational emails to all of our clients before any transitions are finalized.

Where Do I Wear My Film Badge?

We are often asked about the proper way to wear film badges with lead aprons or other lead garments. The types and number of lead garments determines how/where to properly position your film badge.

- If you are wearing only a lead apron (or vest and skirt), your badge is to be worn on your collar (outside the lead). The "theory" is to get accurate readings regarding your thyroid and eyes.
- If you are wearing a lead apron (or vest and skirt), plus thyroid collar, your badge is to be worn on the collar (outside the lead). The "theory" is to get an accurate reading regarding your eyes.
- If you are wearing a lead apron (or vest and skirt), plus thyroid collar, plus lead glasses, your badge is to be worn under your apron or vest on your chest. Remember also that the vests are designed with 1/2 the lead-equivalent on each front "flap" (to reduce weight). The front flaps need to properly overlap to get the desired protection.

If you have questions, please contact your Radiation Safety Officer (RSO).

New Changes to ACR CT Accreditation Process

We frequently recommend ACR accreditation for all applicable modalities. Many of you have been through the process of accreditation and are familiar with it. In an attempt to improve the process, the ACR has updated their CT accreditation program. There have been significant changes to the physics portion of the accreditation process and other changes that will be more obvious to you.

The change that will probably be most noticed is the additional evaluations of the pediatric head protocol for dose and image quality. This may mean significant changes to the current pediatric head protocol used at your site and possibly additional time requirements for physics testing. We recommend that any site seeking ACR accreditation, or reaccreditation, in CT contact us early in the process to ensure that testing and possible protocol changes go as smoothly as possible.

Another major update to the program is that the application is entirely online. This means that some of the forms that physics filled out before on paper will now have to be completed by you online. If there are any questions don't hesitate to call us.

If you do not want to receive this newsletter in the future, please email us at jhulteen@smdc.org to assure we remove you from our mailing list.