

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO BECOME A MAMMOGRAPHY TECHNOLOGIST

CALIFORNIA TECHS: SEE THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT NOW.

1. You must be ARRT registered, RT(R)
or
Licensed by your state to perform radiographs
or
Certified in general radiography by a certification body approved by the FDA.
2. You must complete 40 hours of training/education specific to mammography under the supervision of a qualified instructor. The education must include:
 - (A) Training in breast anatomy and physiology, positioning and compression, quality assurance/quality control techniques, imaging of patients with breast implants, digital mammography and digital breast tomosynthesis, if utilizing that modality.
 - (B) The performance of a minimum of 25 examinations under the direct supervision of a qualified mammography technologist or radiologist. These exams must be recorded and include the date, facility name, and name of the supervising technologist.
 - (C) At least 8 hours of training in each mammography modality to be used by the technologist in performing mammography exams. Examples are Digital Mammography and Digital Breast Tomosynthesis (DBT).

When you have completed these steps, you are then qualified under MQSA to perform mammography independently. Your Certificate of Successful Completion from RadComm, Inc. + the document demonstrating 25 supervised mammograms must be available for review by the MQSA inspector as evidence of MQSA qualifications. (Any questions regarding MQSA regulations should be directed to the FDA Hotline at (800) 838-7715.)

These documents are to be kept for your records and on file at the location where you are performing mammograms as proof of MQSA compliance.

Following initial MQSA qualifications, you must remain actively qualified by:

- Obtaining 15 continuing education credits in mammography every 3 years. To play it safe, be certain to receive 5 Mammography CE credits per year. The MQSA inspector who visits your facility will verify that you have received these credits.
- You also must perform 200 mammograms every 2 years to fulfill the clinical experience requirement. Documentation of these is required and usually available from your facility manager who can print a report of your completed examinations.

Even though you are MQSA-qualified, most employers will require that you receive ARRT certification in Mammography. Follow these steps next:

1. Download the ARRT Post-primary Eligibility Pathway Handbook at www.arrt.org. You must complete the application process online – from submitting clinical experience procedures to the application itself. Contact the ARRT at 651-687-0048, extension 8560, Examination and Certification Department if you have questions.
2. Independently perform 75 mammograms in preparation for the ARRT exam. (This is in addition to the 25-supervised exams for MQSA requirement.) These procedures are documented, verified and submitted via an online tool accessible through My ARRT Info account on arrt.org.
3. You will have to perform additional clinical experience requirements as well. These must be completed prior to applying for the ARRT Mammography examination, for example:
 - a. Patient Preparation/Education
 - b. Mammographic Procedure
 - c. Quality Control (QC)
 - d. QC Documentation
 - e. Radiographic Critique/Interpretation
 - f. Elective Procedures including Interventional/Special Examinations
4. The tasks outlined in the ARRT Post-primary Eligibility Pathway Handbook must be completed within 24 months of applying for the ARRT Mammography Exam.
5. The application process is completed online by logging into the My ARRT Info section of the ARRT website after your structured education has been approved by ARRT and your supervisor has signed off on your clinical experience requirements.
6. The ARRT examinations are administered by the Pearson Vue Testing Centers. A geographic list of test center locations and driving directions may be viewed at www.pearsonvue.com/arrt.

The ARRT requires radiologic technologists to obtain 24 continuing education credits during their biennium (every 2 years). Your biennium dates are listed on your ARRT membership card. The ARRT does NOT have specific requirements for mammography. Therefore, you may satisfy your MQSA CE requirement with your ARRT CE requirements. For example, since the ARRT requires 24 credits during your 2-year biennium, you may obtain 10 of those in mammography. Again, play it safe and obtain 5 CE credits per year in mammography. Many technologists who work only in mammography chose to obtain all mammography credits to fulfill their CE requirements.

ATTENTION CALIFORNIA TECHNOLOGISTS! THE RULES ARE DIFFERENT FOR YOU!

California state law requires that you do the following in this order:

1. Obtain 40 credit hours in mammography curriculum.
2. Successfully pass the California Mammography Certification examination.
3. Perform 25 mammograms under the supervision of a qualified mammography technologist.
4. Now begin preparation for the ARRT exam.
5. Please contact the CA governing body. <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/>