

STAFFING

1. REASON FOR ISSUE: To revise the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) qualification standard that covers the appointment of Therapeutic Radiologic Technologists, GS-648, in VA.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS/MAJOR CHANGES: These revisions cover changes to the qualification standard for Therapeutic Radiologic Technologist, GS-648. The changes on these pages replace corresponding page numbers in Part II, Appendix G26, of VA Handbook 5005. These changes will be incorporated into the electronic version of VA Handbook 5005 that is maintained on the [Office of Human Resources Management Web site](#). Significant changes include:

a. Adds this clarifying language regarding certification for Medical Dosimetrist:

(1) Certification in Medical Dosimetry is not a basic requirement for this occupation; however, it is strongly desirable as evidence of possession of the essential knowledge, skills, and abilities. Certification is required for assignments at the GS-12 grade level. See exception in paragraph 4, Deviations.

b. Adds this exception to paragraph 4, Deviations:

c. **Exception.** If there are no acceptable applicants who meet the basic requirements, the Chief Patient Care Services Officer may authorize a medical center to hire otherwise qualified medical dosimetrist applicants, provided such persons show evidence of training, experience and competence to be equally protective of patient health and safety. The candidate **MUST** be certified in Medical Dosimetry.

3. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: The Recruitment and Placement Policy Service (059), Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resources Management.

4. RELATED DIRECTIVE: VA Directive 5005, Staffing.

5. RESCISSIONS: None.

CERTIFIED BY:

/s/
Robert T. Howard
Assistant Secretary for
Office Information and Technology

**BY DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:**

/s/
Michael W. Hager
Assistant Secretary for
Human Resources and Administration

DISTRIBUTION: ELECTRONIC ONLY

**APPENDIX G26. THERAPEUTIC RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST
QUALIFICATION STANDARD
GS-648
Veterans Health Administration**

1. COVERAGE. The following are the requirements for appointment as a Therapeutic Radiologic Technologist (TRT) in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). TRTs assist in the localization of tumors, participate in treatment planning, and deliver high doses of ionizing radiation as prescribed by the radiation oncologists. These requirements apply to all VHA TRTs in the General Schedule (GS)-648 series.

2. BASIC REQUIREMENTS

a. **Citizenship.** Citizen of the United States. (Non-citizens may be appointed when it is not possible to recruit qualified candidates in accordance with chapter 3, section A, paragraph 3g, this part.)

b. **Certification**

(1) All applicants must be certified in therapeutic radiologic technology by the American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT) (T).

(2) Certification in Medical Dosimetry is not a basic requirement for this occupation; however, it is strongly desirable as evidence of possession of the essential knowledge, skills, and abilities. Certification is required for assignments at the GS-12 grade level. [See exception in paragraph 4, deviations.]

c. **Experience or Education.** Completion of a program in therapeutic radiologic technology, evidenced by a certificate or an associate's degree, accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT); certification by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) in Radiology, and the subsequent completion of a 12-month JRCERT approved program in therapeutic radiologic technology. JRCERT is the accrediting agency for the radiation therapy programs recognized by the US Department of Education.

(1) Public Law 97-35 requires that persons who administer radiologic procedures meet the credentialing standards in 42 CFR Part 75. Essentially, they must have successfully completed an educational program that meets or exceeds the standards described in that regulation, and is accredited by an organization recognized by the Department of Education, and be certified (registered) as radiation therapists in their field.

(2) Non-certified applicants who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for ARRT (T) certification may be given a temporary appointment as a graduate TRT under the authority of 38 U.S.C. § 7405 (a) (1) (D). Failure to obtain certification during that period is justification for termination of the temporary appointment. This may result in termination of employment.

(3) **Loss of Credential.** An employee in this occupation who fails to obtain licensure/certification/registration within the required time frame, or who fails to maintain the required licensure/certification/registration must be removed from the occupation, which may also result in termination of employment.

PART II

APPENDIX G26

*d. Ability to evaluate and adjust resources when needed;

*e. Knowledge of budget allocation and finances and ability to utilize resources and remain within allocated budget; and

*f. Ability to manage and direct work of others to accomplish program goals.

4. DEVIATIONS

a. The appointing official may, under unusual circumstances, approve reasonable deviations to the grade determination requirements for TRTs in VHA whose composite record of accomplishments, performance, and qualifications, as well as current assignments, warrant such action based on demonstrated competence to meet the requirements on the proposed grade.

b. Under no circumstances will the basic certification requirements of radiologic competence and ARRT (T) certification/registration, or certification in medical dosimetry where required, be waived.

c. The placement of individuals in grade levels not described in this standard must be approved by the Under Secretary for Health, or designee, in VHA Central Office.

[**EXCEPTION.** If there are no acceptable applicants who meet the basic requirements, the Chief Patient Care Service Officer may authorize a medical center to hire otherwise qualified medical dosimetrist applicants, provided such persons show evidence of training, experience and competence to be equally protective of patient health and safety. The candidate **MUST** be certified in Medical Dosimetry.]

Authority: 38 U.S.C. §§ 7402, 7403.