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AUTHORITY: Sec. 979 of the Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act of 1981, Pub. L. 97-35, 95 Stat. 599-600 (42 U.S.C. 10004).

SOURCE: 50 FR 50717, Dec. 11, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

§ 75.1 Background and purpose.

(a) The purpose of these regulations is to implement the provisions of section 979 of the Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act of 1981, 42 U.S.C. 10004, which requires the establishment by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of standards for the accreditation of programs for the education of certain persons who administer radiologic procedures and for the credentialing of such persons.

(b) Section 979 requires the Secretary, after consultation with specified Federal agencies, appropriate agencies of States, and appropriate professional organizations, to promulgate by regulation the minimum standards described above. These standards distinguish between the occupations of (1) radiographer, (2) dental hygienist, (3) dental assistant, (4) nuclear medicine technologist, and (5) radiation therapy technologist. In the interest of public safety and to prevent the hazards of improper use of medical radiation identified by Congress in its determination of the need for standards, the Secretary is also authorized to prepare standards for other occupational

groups utilizing ionizing and non-ionizing radiation as he/she finds appropriate. However, the standards set out below are limited to the five occupational groups listed above, utilizing ionizing radiation. Nothing in these accreditation standards is intended to discriminate against proprietary schools.

§ 75.2 Definitions.

All terms not defined herein shall have the meaning given them in the Act. As used in this part:

Accreditation, as applied to an educational program, means recognition, by a State government or by a non-governmental agency or association, of a specialized program of study as meeting or exceeding certain established qualifications and educational standards. As applied to a health care or educational institution, *accreditation* means recognition, by a State government or by a nongovernmental agency or association, of the institution as meeting or exceeding certain established standards or criteria for that type of institution.

Act means the Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act of 1981, 42 U.S.C. 10001-10008.

Continuing competency means the maintenance of knowledge and skills and/or demonstrated performance that are adequate and relevant to professional practice needs.

Credentialing means any process whereby a State Government or non-governmental agency or association grants recognition to an individual who meets certain predetermined qualifications.

Dental hygienist means a person licensed by the State as a dental hygienist.

Dental assistant means a person other than a dental hygienist who assists a dentist in the care of patients.

Educational program means a set of formally structured activities designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to enter an occupation, with evaluation of student performance according to predetermined objectives.

Energized laboratory means any facility which contains equipment that generates ionizing radiation. This does not