Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS § 482.26

§ 482.26 Condition of participation: Radiologic services.

(a) Standard: Radiologic services. The hospital must maintain, or have available, radiologic services according to needs of the patients.

(b) Standard: Safety for patients and personnel. The radiologic services, particularly ionizing radiology procedures, must be free from hazards for patients and personnel.

1. Proper safety precautions must be maintained against radiation hazards. This includes adequate shielding for patients, personnel, and facilities, as well as appropriate storage, use, and disposal of radioactive materials.

2. Periodic inspection of equipment must be made and hazards identified must be promptly corrected.

(c) Standard: Personnel. (1) A qualified full-time, part-time, or consulting radiologist must supervise the ionizing radiology services and must interpret only those radiologic tests that are determined by the medical staff to require a radiologist’s specialized knowledge. For purposes of this section, a radiologist is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is qualified by education and experience in radiology.

2. Only personnel designated as qualified by the medical staff may use the radiologic equipment and administer procedures.

(d) Standard: Records. Records of radiologic services must be maintained.

1. The radiologist or other practitioner who performs radiology services must sign reports of his or her interpretations.

2. The hospital must maintain the following for at least 5 years:

(i) Copies of reports and printouts.

(ii) Films, scans, and other image records, as appropriate.

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