

# LOUISIANA STATE RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY BOARD OF EXAMINERS

## **BOARD POSITION RELATIVE TO THE PERFORMANCE OF COMPUTERIZED TOMOGRAPHIC PROCEDURES (CT SCANS) AND POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY PROCEDURES (PET SCANS)**

The Louisiana State Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners (LSRTBE) is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of **L.R.S. 37:3200-3219** (Radiologic Technologist Licensing Law).

The LSRTBE has become aware that with the recent proliferation of advanced technology hybrid PET / CT scanners that there has been some confusion as to who can legally operate a PET / CT scanner.

By, definition the LSRTBE recognizes two distinct types of PET acquisition machines:

1. PET scanners that perform no other function than PET image acquisition.
2. PET / CT hybrid scanners that are capable of performing independent PET and CT studies at different times and locations.

Radiologic Technology consists of three (3) separate and distinct categories and a license is required for each category of practice: (1) Radiographer, (2) Nuclear Medicine Technologist and (3) Radiation Therapy Technologist. For the purposes of this position statement, the functions of the Radiographer and Nuclear Medicine Technologist will be considered.

**L.R.S. 37:3200 (8)** is stated as: “Radiologic technology means the use of a **radioactive substance or equipment emitting or detecting ionizing radiation** on humans for diagnostic purposes upon prescription of a licensed practitioner”.

**L.R.S. 37:3200 (4)** is stated as: “Nuclear medicine technologist means a person, other than a licensed practitioner (physician), who under the direction and supervision of a licensed practitioner **uses radioactive materials** on humans for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes upon prescription of a licensed practitioner.

**L.R.S. 37:3200 (6)** is stated as: “Radiographer means a person, other than a licensed practitioner (physician), who under the direction and supervision of a licensed practitioner **applies radiation to humans for diagnostic purposes** upon prescription of a licensed practitioner.”

**Note that these legal definitions make a distinction between equipment that emits or detects ionizing radiation and also define who can utilize radioactive materials**

**(isotopes) on humans and also clarify which category of license is required to perform certain procedures.**

Therefore, in order to administer an isotope and perform a **PET** Scan you must be a Licensed Nuclear Medicine Technologist or a licensed physician.

In order to perform a diagnostic **CT** Scan you must be a Licensed Radiographer or a licensed physician.

In summary: The operation of the **PET / CT** scanner requires that the procedures be performed by both the Licensed Radiographer and the Licensed Nuclear Medicine Technologist or a person who holds license in both categories.

The full text of our statute and rules and regulations are available on our web site: **[www.lsrte.org](http://www.lsrte.org)**.

On the behalf of the **LSRTBE** I remain,

**Richard S. Whitehorn, BSRT, (R)**  
**Executive Director**

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