

## CURRENT MAMMOGRAPHY NEWS

### MAMMOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT

- June 27, 2008 - A **NOTICE OF EXCEPTION** was issued by the Michigan Department of Community Health (**MDCH**) on regarding digital mammography machines with **tungsten targets**. Since some manufacturers are now using the tube-filter combination of **W/Rh** for routine imaging in **digital mammography**, the **MDCH** has granted **exception** to **Rule 638(2)** requiring at least **500 mR/sec output** at **28 kVp** and **4.5 cm** above the breast support. **Lorad** requires their **W/Rh digital mammography** system to be **≥230 mR/sec** over a 3 second period at **28 kVp** and **4.5 cm**.
- May 8, 2008 - A **NEW INTERPRETATION** of **MDCH Rule 652(3)** on **AEC testing** was issued. **Effective immediately**, facilities can now test AEC performance in the **fully-automatic mode** (MQSA method) at **2, 4, & 6 cm** of attenuator material providing the fully-automatic is how the machine is used **normally**. If the unit **passes** the **MQSA limit** of **+/-0.15 OD** maximum variation from average, they will consider the AEC performance to have met **Rule 652(3)**. However, if the MQSA method exceeds the +/-0.15 OD limit, then the unit must be tested using the MDCH required format of 3 different kVp's at 2, 4, & 6 cm of attenuator material in the **auto-time mode** with the **MDCH standard of +/-0.20 OD**.

### RADIOLOGISTS

- As of July 12, 2007, the **MDCH initial experience requirement** for the mammography physician interpreter (**radiologist**) to have read **520 cases** under **supervision** in the **12 months prior** to reading mammograms **independently** has been **removed**.
- The radiologist now has **12 months** after becoming qualified to read the **first 520 mammograms**. After that, the radiologist is required to read 520 mammograms in a rolling 12 month period. **MQSA** still requires the radiologist to have read **240 mammograms** in a **six (6) month period** (under **direct supervision**) prior to the date the physician qualifies as an interpreting physician (**initial experience**).