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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

DATE: February 26, 2026
TOPIC: Mobile X-ray Services
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TO: Mobile X-ray and Radiation Producing Machine Registrants

This technical bulletin provides guidance to mobile X-ray companies regarding the imaging of patients at temporary and fixed imaging locations. Mobile X-ray companies take radiographs at patient locations referred to as temporary imaging locations using mobile and portable X-ray equipment. Mobile X-ray services are provided directly to nursing homes, assisted living communities, hospice centers, homebound patients, patient homes when order by their doctor, and may be provided as part of in-home care services.

Nevada Administrative Code 459.556(1) states, in part, “portable or mobile equipment may be used only for examinations where it is impractical to transfer the patient to a stationary radiographic installation.”

As explained in the technical bulletin, titled “Use Limitations for Portable and Mobile X-ray Machines”, portable and mobile X-ray machines are intended for bedside use when a patient cannot be transported to a designated imaging room with a permanently installed imaging system. Examples include intensive care, critical care, emergency, and surgical patients. When patients are ambulatory (including walk-in clinics and doctor’s offices) a permanently installed stationary imaging system must be used. This technical bulletin which is available on the Radiation Control Program (RCP) web page: <https://www.dpbh.nv.gov/regulatory/radiation-control-programs/radiation-producing-machines-program-rpm/technical-bulletins/> and applies to radiographs taken at medical facilities, which are fixed locations.

When mobile X-ray services are provided to patients at temporary imaging locations, a mobile X-ray company can encounter situations where a patient may be ambulatory and seem fit to be transported to a facility with a stationary radiographic installation which raises the question, “Does the patient have to be transported to a stationary radiographic installation or is it acceptable to use mobile or portable X-ray equipment to image these patients”? The Radiation Control Program recognizes that for portable X-ray services, there can be many factors that can make it impractical for a patient to be transferred to a stationary imaging system such as inaccessibility, ease of medical care, patient concerns, patient limitations, and necessity.

For mobile X-ray services, the Radiation Control Program considers whether a patient should be transferred to a stationary radiographic installation or if the patient can be imaged using mobile or portable X-ray equipment which is a medical decision between the patient and the physician who prescribes the radiograph. For this reason, companies who provide mobile X-ray services to patients

should image the patient as prescribed by the physician. This guidance is not intended to prevent the mobile X-ray service from discussing any concerns with the prescribing physician.

For situations where a mobile X-ray company provides imaging services at both a fixed location such as their office or medical facility and at temporary imaging locations, a stationary radiographic installation must be used at the fixed location and the use of mobile or portable X-ray machines are limited to temporary imaging locations, where the mobile or portable x-ray equipment is taken to the patient.

For updated guidance, review the [Division of Public and Behavioral Health Technical Bulletin](#) web page regularly. If you have questions or need additional information, contact the Radiation Control Board by phone at (775) 687-7750 or by email at radiationcontrolprogram@health.nv.gov.



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