

The Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) has changed the way we do and think about mammography in the United States. The Government Accounting Office has published several analyses documenting improvements in mammography throughout the US as a result of the implementation of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Interim Rules for Mammography. The FDA clarified and expanded many of their regulations in their Final Rules for Mammography that went into effect on April 28, 1999. The quality assurance section of the rules specify the minimum level of tests that must be conducted and their performance to ensure good clinical image quality. In order to help facilities prepare and comply with the new rules, the American College of Radiology's Committee on Quality Assurance in Mammography revised their Mammography Quality Control Manual in March of 1999. The revised manual also includes testing and recommended performance criteria that go beyond the MQSA minimums to encourage further improvements in image quality. This presentation will outline the most significant changes in the new rules compared with the old and discuss those that have the greatest impact on medical physicists and they way they practice. The use of the 1999 Quality Control Manual in complying with these rules will be emphasized.

Educational Objectives:

1. To learn about MQSA Final Rules
2. To learn about the revised 1999 ACR Mammography Quality Control Manual