Quality Assurance Services, Inc.

A Note From the Physicist

"Quality Is Never An Accident"

Before You Call the Medical Physicist for a

MRI Acceptance Test:

1.   Please make sure the MRI unit is fully operational and buttoned up; it does no good to test a unit that is then going to be "finished" by the installation engineers – who can know what changed after the testing??? It would be most helpful if copies of the test documents were available for review.

2.   Be sure the shielding has been thoroughly tested. It would be most helpful if copies of the test documents were available for review.

3.   Be sure the operator knows how to bring up the SMPTE test pattern on the console – if the operator does not know, contact your service provider and ask how to bring up the SMPTE test pattern inherent in your software. Do not allow them to send you a test pattern over the network - the object of the testing is to test your system – not to test their ability to generate a test pattern. If your software does not have a SMPTE test pattern in it, ask if there is a software upgrade that would contain it. If there is no way to get a SMPTE test pattern on your console, ask what test pattern the service engineers use to set the console monitor(s) and find out how to bring that test pattern up on the console.

4.   Be sure the film printer is operational – even if you are "filmless" you will need some way to print to film for the testing – and you will always need to print to hardcopy occasionally anyway.

5.   Be sure that the operational printer is connected to and "talking" with the MRI unit.

6.   When we schedule a test we need about one-full-day of test time – this does not include warm-up time, so please have the unit warmed up and ready to go at the prescribed time.

7.   Please be aware that the unit cannot be tested at the same time the construction people are finishing painting, pulling cable, working on the computers, or whatever. The room has to be clear of all bodies.

8.   Please allow plenty of lead time from the testing to when you expect the report. We will be taking a good number of films back to the office for analysis – this is what you are paying for (the analysis) – so please do not ask for the analysis to be

rushed. We are trying to make sure your unit is operating the way you expect it to operate - the way you were promised by the vendor that it would operate – so we need a bit of time to properly perform the analysis and provide the written report. Generally, a week or so from the Test to the report is about right.

9.   Finally, the equipment and phantoms required for MRI Acceptance Testing are expensive. And, believe me, that equipment is in use almost every day, so please contact us as early as possible to schedule your Acceptance Test. We will, or course, be as flexible as possible to accommodate your schedule.