



Roles in the Physician's Office Laser Program

Medical Laser Safety Officer

Knowing that the most common lasers used in physician's offices today are Class IV systems, the federal government recommends that each facility assign a responsible member of the staff as the Medical Laser Safety Officer. Many states mandate this position, other states have such regulations under consideration. The MLSO may have a variety of job responsibilities and duties depending on the scope of the laser program, the other required tasks within the office, and the educational/ experience of the individual assigned the MLSO task.

If a single site is involved, the MLSO should be readily available to that site any time the laser is in use. In the absence of the MLSO, an additional individual should be assigned and provided appropriate training to ensure a continuous quality of patient care. If multiple or mobile sites are involved, one individual should be responsible for title of MLSO of the multiple locations, with assisting or deputy MLSO's available at each site under the direction of the primary MLSO.

The MLSO is responsible for the safe use of medical/ surgical lasers by those credentialed to perform laser surgery or therapy. The MLSO shall have the authority to suspend, restrict, or terminate the operation of the laser system in use should it be determined necessary by the MLSO due to potential malfunction, hazard control, or misuse of the laser.

Medical Laser Safety Officer Basic Responsibilities:

The MLSO shall have a working knowledge of laser physics and characteristics applicative to the individual clinical setting and application of each clinical setting.

The MLSO shall be available to observe or function as the laser technician as needed during laser procedures.

The MLSO has the responsibility to terminate operation of a laser unit during therapy should a situation arise that places the patient, staff, or physician in danger. It is the responsibility of the MLSO to insure that all laser safety policies and procedures are followed.

The MLSO will not initiate a turn-on procedure of the laser system unless a credentialed physician is physically on site.

The MLSO for the physician's office shall be responsible for ensuring all appropriate documentation is completed for each laser treatment, the laser devices are kept in proper working order and properly maintained, and communication is provided to all staff members involved in the laser program.



The MLSO may be a physician, nurse, technician, MA, aesthetician, or other. If the MLSO functions as the laser operator as well, the individual physician's office should be aware of any state specific laser operational requirements

Laser Safety Committee

The function of the LSC is to provide a variety of knowledgeable individuals to assist in the development and ensure the continued safety and effectiveness of the laser program. In the physician office environment, the function of the LSC would be to assist in the development and approval of all policies, procedures, job descriptions, documentation, and provide direction and continuous feedback for all laser program issues.

It is advisable that the LSC meet regularly (monthly). The attendees and issues discussed should be documented and filed.

In addition to ensuring the proper and safe development of the program, other issues involved with general growth opportunities should be addressed by this knowledgeable group.