

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNICIAN
QUALIFICATION STANDARD
GS-0642
AUTHORITY: 38 U.S.C. 7402

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: The qualification requirements for Nuclear Medicine Technician, found in the Group Coverage Qualification Standard for Technical and Medical Support Positions, in OPM's "Operating Manual - Qualification Standards for General Schedule Positions," section IV-A-7 to IV-A-11, have been approved for use in VA with the following additional requirements:

1. **Certification:** All applicants must be certified in Nuclear Medicine by one of the following:
 - a. The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB), or
 - b. The American Registry of Radiologic Technology (ARRT).

2. **Exceptions for Applicants:** Uncertified applicants who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for NMTCB or ARRT certification (see section 4, Certification Eligibility) may be given a temporary appointment not to exceed 1 year; or they may be appointed subject to obtaining the required certification during the probationary period. Those who fail to obtain NMTCB or ARRT certification in nuclear medicine during that year must be removed from the GS-642 series, which may result in termination of employment. A statement citing this condition of employment must be signed by each Nuclear Medicine Technician appointed or assigned under these provisions and filed in the employee's personnel folder. Requests for extending uncertified Nuclear Medicine Technicians beyond the probationary period are inappropriate.

If, after positive recruitment activities, there are no acceptable applicants who meet these requirements, the Chief Patient Care Services Officer may authorize a medical center director to recruit otherwise qualified applicants, who show evidence of training, experience and competence to be equally protective of patient health and safety. Requests to initiate broad-based recruitment using a modified standard that meets the requirements of chapter 2, section B, paragraph 9, this part, may be submitted, through channels, to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resources Management [and Labor Relations] (05[9]).

3. **Exceptions for Employees:** Each uncertified Nuclear Medicine Technician who was permanently employed on June 21, 1986, and whose competence in the safe administration of radiopharmaceuticals was affirmed in writing by a licensed VA physician not later than January 1, 1987, and documented in the employee's personnel folder, or any licensed Nuclear Medicine Technician hired before receipt of this standard, is considered fully qualified, and may be promoted, demoted or reassigned within the GS-642 occupation. Any employee initially retained in this manner who leaves this occupation in VA or transfers to another facility loses protected status and must meet the full requirements in effect at the time of reentry. A statement to this effect is to be signed and dated by the incumbent, the Chief, Nuclear Medicine Service and the Chief of Staff, and retained on the right side of the employee's personnel folder.

4. **Certification Eligibility:** NMTCB or ARRT certification eligibility requirements are normally satisfied by the following:

a. Graduation from an educational program in nuclear medicine technology accredited by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation;

b. National certification as a registered medical technologist, registered radiologic technologist, registered nurse, or a bachelor's or associate degree in one of the physical or biological sciences, and 4 years of clinical nuclear medicine technology experience.

NOTE: *Candidates who have obtained ARRT or NMTCB certification in nuclear medicine through methods other than those listed above meet minimum requirements for GS-5.*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness (HRA/OSP) (006), Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer (OCHCO) (05), Recruitment and Placement Policy Service (059)