Rachel Abernathy

Radiation Physicist

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SKILLS

- HDR Brachytherapy
- Treatment Planning
- Quality Assurance
- Radiation Safety
- Radiation Surveys
- IMRT
- SBRT
- Dosimetry
- Shielding Design
- Communication Skills

EDUCATION

Master of Science

05/2018

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, TN

Medical Physics

CERTIFICATES

Board Certification, Therapeutic Medical Physics

American Board of Radiology

2024

SUMMARY

Radiation Physicist with 4 years of clinical practice, board certified by the ABR, and the lead for HDR brachytherapy at a 3-linac cancer center. Covers treatment planning review, quality assurance, radiation safety and radiation surveys, and works closely with radiation oncologists on gynecologic, prostate and skin cases.

EXPERIENCE

Radiation Physicist 09/2022 - Present

Cumberland Valley Cancer Center Nashville, TN

One of 2 physicists in an outpatient radiation oncology center treating about 75 patients a day.

- Plan and verify **320** HDR brachytherapy fractions a year for cervical, prostate and skin patients.
- Review treatment planning for IMRT and SBRT cases, checking 25 new plans a week before first treatment.
- Conduct radiation surveys after each HDR source exchange and in 6 shielded rooms each quarter.
- Lead annual radiation safety training for 35 therapists, nurses and front desk staff.

Medical Physics Resident 07/2020 - 08/2022

Volunteer State University Medical Center Knoxville, TN

CAMPEP-accredited therapeutic medical physics residency.

- Rotated through 7 clinical areas including HDR brachytherapy, SRS, imaging and shielding design.
- Calculated shielding for a new linac vault that passed the state survey on the first visit.
- Performed IMRT dosimetry QA on 600 plans with a diode array and ion chamber.
- Presented 2 case reviews at the regional AAPM chapter meeting.

Physics Assistant 06/2018 - 06/2020

Music City Oncology Associates Nashville, TN

Full-time physics support in a 2-linac practice.

- Ran daily linac output checks on 2 machines and logged results for physicist review.
- Prepared 150 chart checks a month for the staff physicist to approve.
- Maintained the inventory of 4 ion chambers and their calibration records.