

**Authority to Register and Use Handheld Dental Radiation Machines
in the State of Maryland
*Effective August 6, 2012***

The Radiological Health Program Radiation Machines Division (RMD) finds no definitive public health concerns regarding the operation of handheld dental x-ray devices, provided certain specified conditions are adhered to. The RMD has evaluated areas such as safety, training, backscatter, leakage, retakes of images, and handling of the devices.

The conditions imposed by the RMD will ensure the safe and proper operation of handheld dental devices and will be a part of their registration. If these conditions are met, handheld dental radiation machines will be allowed in the State of Maryland effective April 1, 2009, and in dental offices effective August 6, 2012.

Each registration application will be reviewed on its own merits to determine the need for the device. It is anticipated that the handheld devices may best be suited to the following settings: nursing homes, home health care, special needs patients, hospitals, sedated patients, or in dental offices under specified conditions. The devices will not be allowed in a school environment except for diagnostic use after an authorized practitioner's oral examination of a patient and finding of clinical indication for device use.

Appropriate changes have been made in COMAR 26.12.01.01 allowing handheld dental devices to be used in the State of Maryland under specified conditions as summarized above. These changes are effective August 6, 2012.