



Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
Association canadienne des technologues en radiation médicale

August 15, 2008

Annie Schiefer, Project Manager
Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council
55 St. Clair Avenue West
Suite 806, Box 18
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4V 2Y7

Dear Ms. Schiefer,

It is a pleasure to write on behalf of the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists to support the 'Request for Change of Practice – Medical Radiation Technology' submitted to your office by the College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario and the Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Technologists. The changes recommended to the scope of practice of medical radiation technologists (MRTs) will permit these dedicated health professionals to practice within the Ontario health system to the full extent of their competence and capability.

The proposed changes will bring the scope of practice statement in line with current practice, which includes many controlled acts that now must be delegated in a time-consuming case-by-case fashion, but for which MRTs have been trained to have the required knowledge, skills and judgment. Providing the basis for this education are the national competency profiles, which are established and validated by our association through an extensive consultative process that includes educators, practicing MRTs, managers, regulators, provincial MRT associations and governments. The competency profiles also are the benchmarks for the accreditation of the MRT education programs and the development of the national certification examination. The national competency profiles define the knowledge, skills and judgment that are required for entry to practice and support the requested changes in the scope of practice and additional authorized acts.

A few points within the proposed changes to the scope of practice deserve particular mention:

- MRTs are now involved with the assessment of patients before, during and after treatment and it is important that this be recognized in the scope of practice.
- The use of electromagnetism for magnetic resonance imaging is a significant advance in the field and needs to be included to ensure clarity of the technologies utilized by MRTs.
- It is important to refer to data as well as images because of the move to digital imaging.

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The field of diagnostic imaging and radiation therapy is one of the most rapidly changing in health care, largely as a result of technological advances. The proposed changes to the scope of practice and authorized acts provides wording that gives the flexibility needed to continue to adapt to these changes while maximizing the ability of MRTs to use their competencies and capabilities to the full, but still ensuring that the public is provided safe care.

It has been a pleasure to provide this letter of support for the proposed changes to the scope of practice for medical radiation technologists. If you would like to pursue any of the points I've raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at Tel. [REDACTED] ext. [REDACTED] or Email: [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

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Charles A. Shields, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

cc Linda Gough, Registrar, College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario
Robin Hesler, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Technologists