



Consultation on proposed regulation to regulate diagnostic medical sonographers with CMRTO

The Council of the College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario (CMRTO) is proposing a regulation to amend the registration regulation made under the *Medical Radiation Technology Act, 1991* (MRT Act) to enable the registration of diagnostic medical sonographers (DMS) as the CMRTO's fifth specialty. It also sets out the requirements for an applicant to be issued a certificate of registration in the new specialty. If enacted, it will come into effect at the beginning of 2018.

The *Regulated Health Professions Act* (RHPA) requires that the proposed changes be circulated for 60 days to members and stakeholders for comment. We welcome comments on the proposed changes on the Consultations page of the CMRTO website (www.cmrto.org). The Consultations page is located under 'What We Do', or click [here](#) to be taken directly to the registration regulation consultation. Please let your sonography colleagues and other interested individuals know about the consultation.

The CMRTO Council will review all comments before making any decisions regarding the proposed amendments. If the proposed changes are approved by Council, notification will be posted to the CMRTO website. The regulation amendments will then be submitted to the Ministry for approval.

The deadline for receipt of comments on the proposed changes is October 17, 2017.

Summary of the Proposed Regulation amending the Registration Regulation made under the Medical Radiation Technology Act, 1991

1. Registration requirements during grandparenting period

Initially, there will be a one-year grandparenting period starting in January 2018 to permit those individuals working competently in diagnostic medical sonography currently or within the last three years to apply for registration as a DMS. (These individuals may not have completed an approved educational program or an approved examination.) Under the grandparenting provision an applicant must be, or must have been, engaged in practice in Canada within the scope of practice as described below:

- On the day the regulation comes into force, or
- For at least 400 hours in the prior year, or
- For at least 1200 hours in the prior three years.

The applicant must also provide satisfactory evidence of their competence to practise in diagnostic medical sonography. All applicants must pay the application fee and the fee for registration required by the CMRTO by-law.

The scope of practice is the use of soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound for the purpose of diagnostic procedures, the evaluation of images and data relating to the procedures and the assessment of an individual before, during and after the procedures.

2. Ongoing registration requirements

After the grandparenting period, the following registration requirements will apply to all individuals wishing to practise diagnostic medical sonography in Ontario:

- An applicant must have successfully completed an approved program in the specialty of diagnostic medical sonography or a program considered by the Council to be equivalent. The approved programs are set out in Schedule 1.3 of the proposed regulation and consist of the programs currently accredited by the Canadian Medical Association Conjoint Accreditation Services Committee.
- An applicant must have successfully completed one or more of the examinations approved by the Council.
- An applicant must have engaged in clinical practice, or completed the approved program, within the last five years.
- An applicant must meet all of the above requirements in the same area of practice within the specialty (ie. general sonography, cardiac sonography or vascular sonography).

If an applicant has not successfully completed an approved program or equivalent (for example, an internationally educated applicant), the applicant must satisfy the CMRTO Registration Committee that their educational program is substantially similar to an approved program and that the applicant is competent to practise diagnostic medical sonography. The requirements in the above paragraphs b, c and d also apply.

All applicants must pay the application fee and the fee for registration required by the CMRTO by-law.

3. Specialty Certificate

The proposed regulation provides that there will be one specialty certificate for diagnostic medical sonography. Applicants must meet all of the requirements for registration in the same area of practice within diagnostic medical sonography (general sonography, cardiac sonography or vascular sonography each being considered an area of practice) in order to be registered in the specialty of diagnostic medical sonography.

4. Title

The title assures the public that the regulated professional is legally authorized to practise the profession in Ontario.

The proposed regulation provides that a member who is registered in the specialty of diagnostic medical sonography may use the title “medical radiation technologist – diagnostic medical sonographer” or “diagnostic medical sonographer” and the associated abbreviations, MRT(DMS) or DMS.

There is one title for all the areas of practice of diagnostic medical sonography, whether the individual has met the registration requirements in general, cardiac, and/or vascular sonography.

5. Conditions of registration

The current registration regulation requires all MRTs to engage in competent practice within every five year period in at least one of the specialties in which the member holds a certificate of registration. This provision will also apply to DMSs.

A new condition is proposed which would apply to all CMRTO members: the member shall practise only in the areas in which the member is educated and experienced.

6. Other Regulations

In addition to the CMRTO registration regulation, the government has posted proposed amendments to the prescribed forms of energy regulation for the scope of practice statement set out in the MRT Act, and the Controlled Acts regulation under the RHPA relating to who can order and apply soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound, on the provincial regulatory registry.

You can comment on these proposed changes online by visiting Ontario’s Regulatory Registry, or by clicking [here](#). You can leave your comments on the Registry by email by October 16, 2017.

Ontario Regulation 226/03 (Prescribed Forms of Energy, Section 3 of the Act) under the *Medical Radiation Technology Act, 1991*

The MRT Act gives the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the ability to make regulations prescribing forms of energy, other than ionizing radiation, for the purpose of section 3 of the Act, which sets out the scope of practice of the profession.

Adding a form of energy to Ontario Regulation 226/03 means that the use of that energy for the purpose of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, the evaluation of images and data relating to the procedures and the assessment of an individual before, during and after the procedures, is included within the legislated scope of practice for members of the CMRTO.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the ministry) is proposing a regulation amendment to add soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound as a prescribed form of energy. The addition of soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound will allow diagnostic medical sonographers registered with the CMRTO to practice according to the scope of practice of the profession.

Ontario Regulation 107/96 (Controlled Acts) under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA)

The RHPA gives the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the ability to make regulations exempting persons or activities from subsection 27(1) of the RHPA.

Currently, subsection 7.1(1) of Ontario Regulation 107/96 exempts a person from subsection 27(1) of the RHPA for the purpose of applying soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound if the application is ordered by a member of the College of Midwives of Ontario (CMO), a member of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) who is a registered nurse in the extended class or a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO), and a number of conditions specified in Ontario Regulation 107/96 are met.

The ministry is proposing an amendment to subsection 7.1(1) of Ontario Regulation 107/96 such that only members of the CMRTO, members of CMO, members of CNO who are Nurse Practitioners and members of CPSO would be exempted from subsection 27(1) of the RHPA for the purpose of applying soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound. This amended exemption would facilitate the regulation of diagnostic medical sonographers by limiting the application of soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound to regulated health professionals with the appropriate knowledge, skills and judgement to perform the procedure.

The proposed amendment would not change the existing authority in Ontario Regulation 107/96 with respect to ordering the application of soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound. The ministry is proposing that the amendment come into force at the end of the one-year grandparenting period proposed by the CMRTO's Registration Regulation.



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