



CMRITO

# insights

Spring 2021



## IN THIS ISSUE:

2021 Council election results

Supporting MRITs and hospitals to deliver patient care during the third wave

Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination program

CMRITO continues remote operations

2021 Quality Assurance Program

That's a good question!

College Performance Measurement Framework

Suspended members

## 2021 COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the 2021 election of professional members to Council are in:

- **Amanda Lee, MRT(R)(MR)** was elected in District 1 – radiography
- **Derek Ribeiro, MRT(T)** was elected in District 2 – radiation therapy

Amanda and Derek's three year terms begin at the next Council meeting on June 10, 2021.

Congratulations to Amanda and Derek and all the candidates who stood for election this year! It is a testament to the professionalism and commitment of CMRITO members who volunteer to participate in the regulation of the profession to ensure the public interest is protected. For more information about the CMRITO Council, the election process, or electoral districts, please visit the [Council](#) and [Elections](#) sections of the website.

**“My experience on the QA Committee has given me a better understanding of self-regulation and the role the College plays in protecting the public.”**



Derek Ribeiro



Amanda Lee

**“I want to be a part of the regulatory body that maintains ethical, safe, and quality imaging technology services for Ontario.”**

## SUPPORTING MRITs AND HOSPITALS TO DELIVER PATIENT CARE DURING THE THIRD WAVE

The Government of Ontario has implemented important new measures to provide the necessary supports for Ontario public hospitals to focus on delivering patient care during the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Medical radiation and imaging technologists (MRITs) should have a solid understanding of the three new emergency orders made to address staffing and capacity pressures and to support health care workers and hospitals as they continue to work to maximize system resources:

- A new order that authorizes regulated health professionals to provide patient care services outside their regular scope of practice and enables hospitals to employ, contract, appoint or otherwise engage regulated health professionals from out-of-province ([O. Reg. 305/21](#), approved and ordered April 21, 2021)
- A new order that authorizes Independent Health Facilities (IHF) to redeploy staff to hospitals on a voluntary basis to help with capacity needs relative to the third wave of COVID-19 ([O. Reg. 304/21](#), approved and ordered April 21, 2021)
- A new order to cease all non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures ([Directive #2 for Health Care Providers](#), issued April 20, 2021)

Under O. Reg. 305/21, regulated health professionals, including MRITs, from Ontario or out-of-province, are authorized to engage outside their regular scope of practice to provide services to Ontario hospital patients, provided that:

- a. it is necessary for the health care professional to provide such services to respond to, prevent or alleviate the effects of the outbreak of COVID-19,
- b. the services are consistent with the duties that have been assigned or the privileges that have been granted by the hospital, and
- c. the health care professional acts in a manner that is consistent with measures taken by the hospital in accordance with relevant legislation.

Hospitals are responsible to ensure that staff members are only assigned tasks or asked to deliver services that they are reasonably qualified to provide.

This new emergency order permits hospitals to deploy regulated health professionals to respond to, prevent and alleviate the outbreak of COVID-19 (e.g., MRITs may be required to backfill nursing positions due to nurses being deployed to ICU).



**The CMRITO interprets this order for MRITs deployed to provide services to hospital patients as follows:**

- MRITs are authorized to practise outside the regular MRIT scope of practice if it is necessary to provide such services to respond to, prevent or alleviate the effects of the outbreak of COVID-19
- no delegation or order is required for a controlled act performed when an MRIT is working outside their regular scope of practice in accordance with this new emergency order
- MRITs must only provide services in accordance with the direction of the clinical manager assigned by the hospital for the area in which they are providing services to hospital patients
- MRITs must ensure that they are competent to provide any service, and if not, inform their clinical manager and refrain from providing the service

Health professionals acting outside their scope of practice in accordance with the new emergency order will not be subject to any action or other proceedings for actions they take or perform, for neglect or default in performance of these acts, where they are done in good faith. However, a member of CMRITO continues to be subject to the jurisdiction of the CMRITO for incompetence that occurs while the member provides services under this new order. MRITs are encouraged to contact their PLI provider to ensure that they are covered for services provided under this new order.



MRITs who are not practising under this new order and are instead practising within their regular scope of practice are required to comply with the regulatory requirements set out in the [Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991](#), the [Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act, 2017](#), and the [CMRITO Standards of Practice](#). MRITs are encouraged to consult the publication [What you must know about ... performing procedures for medical radiation and imaging technologists](#) for more information.

MRITs working at IHFs who wish to be redeployed to a hospital under O. Reg. 304/21, should contact the IHF licensee or manager for information.

MRITs should follow the guidance of their place of employment regarding the implementation of Directive #2 for Health Care Providers, issued April 20, 2021, that requires the cessation of all non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures.

We understand that these are difficult and unsettling times to provide medical radiation and imaging technology services, and health care, in Ontario. We acknowledge that these challenges bring a high degree of uncertainty, especially as MRITs are deployed to other patient care areas or facilities. Practising in unfamiliar clinical environments requires continual adaptation and modifications to your practice – you may even be concerned about being able to maintain the Standards of Practice. While CMRITO will continue to receive complaints and reports during the pandemic, we assess all information with consideration to the practice

environment and the situation in which MRITs are working.

The CMRITO will continue to monitor these changes over the next few weeks. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about working under these new emergency orders, please contact our professional practice advisers at [practiceadvice@cmrito.org](mailto:practiceadvice@cmrito.org).

We recognize that you are doing your best to take care of your patients under arduous and extremely difficult conditions. CMRITO Council, and staff all extend our deepest and sincerest appreciation to each of you for your dedication and diligent service to your patients during the severe third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stay safe and stay well.

## ONTARIO'S COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM

In January, the provincial government rolled out materials to help guide the immunization of frontline health care workers and announced [updated details to Phases 1 & 2 of Ontario's COVID-19 immunization program](#).

CMRITO was reassured to see MRITs included in these plans and pleased to observe that many MRITs across the province have already received their first vaccinations. To support the goal of vaccinating Ontarians as safely and quickly as possible, the government identified new vaccination sites, and authorized nurses and pharmacists to administer vaccines without an order from a physician while the vaccine distribution efforts are in effect.

In addition, the government is seeking skilled health care workers to join the immunization teams in the various Public Health Networks. If you are interested in participating in these vaccination efforts, please visit the [Ontario Matching Portal](#) to register.

MRITs who wish to participate in Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination efforts will need to ensure that all the appropriate authorizing mechanisms are in place. The [Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act, 2017](#) authorizes medical radiation and imaging technologists to administer a substance by injection only when they are practising the profession as defined in the scope of practice and when they have an order from a physician.

As a result, for MRITs to be able to vaccinate others, both a delegation from a physician to permit the MRIT to administer a substance by injection as part of the immunization program (outside the profession's scope of practice) and an order from a physician in the form of a medical directive are required.

If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact our Professional Practice team at [practiceadvice@cmrito.org](mailto:practiceadvice@cmrito.org).

You can find further information and updates at [Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination program](#). As well, please visit our [COVID-19 Information page](#) for the latest COVID-19 information for MRITs.

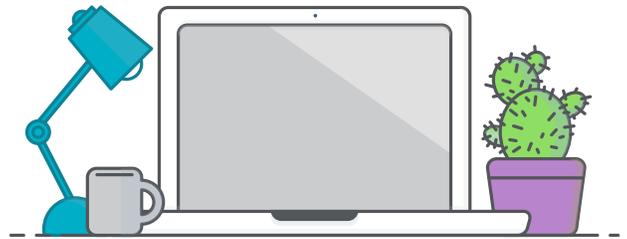
**If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact our Professional Practice team**

Thank you for your professionalism and commitment in carrying out your essential work as MRITs during this difficult time. For more information about when MRITs and all Ontario health care professionals will be vaccinated and how MRITs can help with the vaccination effort, please read *That's a good question!* in this edition of Insights.

## CMRITO CONTINUES REMOTE OPERATIONS

CMRITO will continue to operate remotely – Council and committees are meeting virtually, and staff are working from home – until late fall 2021. In September, CMRITO Council will consider directions being provided by the Ontario Government on return to in-person work and assess whether the College can safely resume in-person meetings and office operations. In the meantime, we continue to concentrate our efforts and resources on meeting our essential regulatory functions of registration, quality assurance and professional conduct.

We will, of course, continue to carefully monitor the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the practice of MRITs and adjust our plans and activities accordingly. CMRITO supports MRITs' ability to provide safe, effective, and ethical medical radiation and imaging technology services and will continue our efforts to promote regulatory accountability among members and deliver on our mandate to protect the public through the regulation of the profession.



## 2021 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

A new year, a new Quality Assurance (QA) Program cycle!

The QA Program requires CMRITO members to ensure your continued competence in a changing health care landscape and allows you to direct your own continuing education and professional development activities in the areas that interest and benefit you most.



At the centre of the QA Program is the ePortfolio – an online information collection tool that **all members must complete every year**. The ePortfolio is comprised of four components:

- **QA Profile** – reflect on your practice as a medical radiation and imaging technologist within the framework of the scope of practice and authorized acts for the profession, and identify any recent or expected changes to your work environment, new procedures, equipment, or legislation that affects you
- **Self-Assessment** – reflect upon your performance in the context of at least two of CMRITO's standards of practice and related indicators, and identify areas for continuing education and professional development activities
- **Record of Continuing Education and Professional Development** – record the 25 hours of continuing education and professional development activities you complete each year, and explain how this learning has helped you in your practice
- **Summary** – display the completion status of your QA Profile, Self-Assessment, and Record of Continuing Education and Professional Development

Your 2021 QA ePortfolio is now available on the [Member & Applicant Portal \(MAP\)](#). Log in and start filling out your ePortfolio today. [Click here](#) to watch a brief video that walks you through how to complete your ePortfolio.

Each year, approximately 20% of CMRITO members are randomly selected to participate in a QA assessment by either completing a multi-source feedback (MSF) assessment or by submitting their ePortfolio for assessment. This year, Council has cancelled the MSF assessment component of the QA assessment due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Those members randomly selected to submit their completed 2021 ePortfolios for assessment were notified by email on April 21, 2021. A notice was also added to their MAP profile.

## QUICKQA APP

Last fall, CMRITO released a new version of our popular QuickQA app for both iOS and Android devices. Since its release, the app has been downloaded nearly 3,000 times and continues to be an indispensable tool for recording continuing education and professional development activities. In 2020, members used the app to record and upload 7,562 continuing educational activities to their ePortfolios, an increase of over 64% over 2019. If you haven't done so yet, download the QuickQA app and start recording your learning activities today!



## THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION! – YOUR MOST ASKED VACCINATION QUESTIONS

Being a regulated health professional is a complex role. As a result, we're happy when MRITs ask us to help them understand topics like practice standards, quality assurance requirements or the role and responsibilities of CMRITO in regulating the MRIT profession. In this new section of Insights called 'That's a good question!' we will answer some of your most frequently asked questions.

### **As a frontline health professional, when can I expect to receive my COVID-19 vaccination?**

In January, the provincial government rolled out materials to help guide the immunization of frontline health care workers and announced [updated details to Phases 1 & 2 of Ontario's COVID-19 immunization program](#).

As part of this program, the government also released an [Ethical Framework](#) for COVID-19 vaccine distribution that was developed in partnership with the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force to guide vaccine prioritization and distribution across the province.

As these documents set out, each Public Health Unit is responsible for delivering the vaccines to all the citizens in their region, as informed by the various guidance documents released to date, and in conjunction with factors such as the available vaccine supply, local resources, population demographics, and pressing needs within their region, among other determining factors.

As a result, Ontario's 34 Public Health Units will have different priorities and will likely schedule medical radiation and imaging technologists to receive their vaccinations at different times.

Since January 2021, CMRITO has been providing data to regional Public Health Units, upon request, including the numbers of MRITs who live and/or work within each Public Health Unit's geographical area, to help with the planning and rollout of their local vaccination programs.

CMRITO does not have jurisdiction over vaccine administration schedules or any insights on the decisions of regional Public Health Units regarding the implementation of their vaccination programs. Please [click here](#) to see a list of Ontario's local Public Health Units and access the most up to date information about COVID-19 vaccine distribution for each unit. As more vaccines become available, the rollout plan may change very quickly, so members should always check with their local Public Health Unit website directly.

We will continue to post links and materials from the Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario, Health Canada and related organizations to the [COVID-19 Information page](#) on our website.



### Are MRITs able to participate in Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination efforts?

Recently, the Ontario government identified new vaccination sites and authorized nurses and pharmacists to administer vaccines without an order from a physician while the province's ongoing vaccine distribution efforts are in effect. MRITs are not included in the list of health care professionals that are exempt from requiring physician's orders to deliver these vaccines.

MRITs who wish to participate in Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination efforts will need to ensure that the appropriate authorizing mechanisms are in place. The [Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act, 2017](#) authorizes MRITs to perform five controlled acts when certain conditions are met. MRITs are authorized to administer a substance by injection **only** when they are practising the profession as defined in the scope of practice and when they have an order from a physician.

As a result, MRITs require both a **delegation from a physician** to administer a substance by injection as part of the immunization program (outside the profession's scope of practice) and an **order from a physician** in the form of a medical directive. If these conditions are met, MRITs can administer vaccines as part of Ontario's vaccination efforts.

If you are interested in participating in the province's vaccination efforts as part of a vaccination team, please visit the [Ontario Matching Portal](#) to register today.

# COLLEGE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK

In December 2020, the Ministry of Health released its new College Performance Measurement Framework (CPMF), a tool designed to strengthen accountability and oversight of Ontario's health regulatory colleges. The CPMF sets out the expectations and reporting requirements for all health regulatory colleges in Ontario. It requires CMRITO to provide information on how the College works with external partners, such as other regulatory colleges, educational programs and the broader healthcare system to improve public protection.

The CPMF covers a wide range of topics, such as how colleges:

- perform as an organization
- register applicants
- measure practice improvement of regulated health professionals, and
- process complaints about their members

The CPMF also collects information about Ontario's regulated health professionals and their participation in practice improvement. It includes data about the number of complaints received and the type of those complaints, and how many health professionals participated in practice improvement activities. Finally, the CPMF details each college's commitment to making improvements over the next year.

CMRITO, and all of Ontario's 26 health regulatory colleges, will update their CPMF annually, noting any progress on areas identified for improvement or adding new or updated information required by the Ministry of Health. These reports are one of the ways colleges demonstrate their commitment to the public interest for the people of Ontario.

CMRITO has submitted the completed CPMF for 2020. [Click here to read our report.](#)

## SUSPENDED MEMBERS

The following members' certificates of registration were suspended between October 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021 for failure to pay their fees in accordance with section 24 of the Health Professions Procedural Code. A person whose certificate of registration has been suspended is not a member of the CMRITO and cannot legally practice as a MRIT unless and until the suspension is removed.

16867 Manar Tallat El Essawy

08799 Craig A. Legros

03838 Heather L. Lundmark

19911 Nisha Sarna

20632 Soofia Kamal



## CMRITO

Regulator of medical radiation and  
imaging technologists in Ontario

**President** Wendy Rabbie

**Vice President** Jay A. Needles

**Registrar & CEO** Linda Gough

**insights** is published by the College of Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists of Ontario and is available to all members, stakeholders, and the public.

300 - 375 University Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2J5  
416.975.4353 1.800.563.5847  
[www.cmrito.org](http://www.cmrito.org)