



IN THIS ISSUE:

Regulation of diagnostic medical sonographers

CMRTO Registrar & CEO message re: regulation of diagnostic medical sonographers

New condition on certificate of registration

No more paper!

New Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics

Legislation Learning Package

New QA Program

QA assessments 2018

Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act, 2017

New CMM system

Suspended members

Regulation of diagnostic medical sonographers

We are happy to welcome sonographers to the CMRTO! The statement below from Registrar & CEO, Linda Gough, was sent to all CMRTO members on December 28, 2017.



College of
Medical Radiation
Technologists of
Ontario

Ordre des
technologues en
radiation médicale
de l'Ontario

CMRTO Registrar & CEO message re: regulation of diagnostic medical sonographers



The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has requested the College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario (CMRTO) to regulate diagnostic medical sonographers with the CMRTO. The necessary regulations

made under the *Medical Radiation Technology Act* come into force on January 1, 2018. Effective January 1, 2019, it will be mandatory for diagnostic medical sonographers to be registered with the CMRTO in order to be legally authorized to practice diagnostic medical sonography in Ontario and to apply soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound. Individuals currently working in diagnostic medical sonography will have one transitional year to become registered with CMRTO. We welcome sonographers to the CMRTO!

We are delighted the government is extending the public protection framework by regulating diagnostic medical sonographers under the *Regulated Health Professions Act* and by making the regulatory framework consistent for all medical radiation and imaging technology by bringing diagnostic medical sonographers into the CMRTO as a fifth specialty. By being self-regulated under the CMRTO, sonographers will join not only their medical radiation technologist colleagues, but also other healthcare professionals registered in Ontario's 26 regulatory colleges, including medicine, nursing, medical laboratory technology and physiotherapy. The benefits of self-regulation include recognition of the education and training sonographers have undergone to practice as professionals, and assurance that the profession's standards are enforced and the public is protected.

CMRTO has been regulating medical radiation technologists in the specialties of radiography, radiation therapy and nuclear medicine for almost 25 years. Magnetic resonance imaging was added as a fourth

specialty in 2003. Our goal at the CMRTO is to work with sonographers and MRTs to ensure a smooth and seamless implementation of diagnostic medical sonography into the CMRTO. We expect over 3,000 new members will be joining our 7,000 current members by the end of 2018.

The regulation of sonographers with CMRTO required amendments to three Ontario regulations and one Act. Schedule 6 of Bill 160, the *Strengthening Quality and Accountability for Patients Act, 2017*, which has received Royal Assent and is now awaiting the date of proclamation, will change the name of the CMRTO to the College of Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists of Ontario (CMRITO).

We expect that the *Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act* (MRIT Act) will come into force on January 1, 2019. This exciting change will require the CMRTO to change all its regulatory and governance tools in 2018.

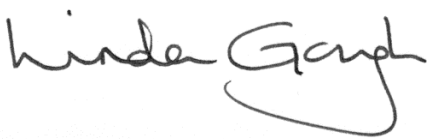
CMRTO Council, committees and staff will be very busy over the next year reviewing applications for registration from sonographers, and preparing for the name change. We will communicate with current members and applicants through email, the CMRTO website, and social media. We encourage sonographers to create an online profile in the CMRTO application portal as soon as possible after January 1, 2018 so we can send you important information by email before you are registered.

CMRTO recently consulted with MRTs and sonographers regarding changes to the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics to include the specialty of diagnostic medical sonography. We asked respondents to indicate whether they would prefer a print copy or electronic version of the Standards of Practice. An overwhelming majority - 80% - said they would prefer to receive the Standards of Practice by electronic methods. Given this positive response and the significant changes required to all CMRTO's publications over the next year, we are ending all print publications and communications with members, effective January 1, 2018. As you know, CMRTO by-laws require members to have an email address that they personally check on a regular basis. This will now be our only method of communicating with members. As always, all our publications are available on the CMRTO website for viewing at any time.

We look forward to the exciting year ahead – regulating sonographers to ensure the protection of the public and preparing for the implementation of the MRIT Act that will regulate all medical radiation and imaging technologists under the College of Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists of Ontario!

Please let your sonography colleagues and friends know about these important changes. We want to make sure that no-one misses the transitional year to become registered with CMRTO so sonographers are compliant with the legislation on January 1, 2019!

Sincerely,



Linda Gough, MRT(R), MPA, Registrar & CEO

New condition on certificate of registration

As of January 1, 2018, there is a new condition added to each member's certificate of registration. The new condition is as follows:

“The member shall practise only in the areas of medical radiation technology in which the member is educated and experienced.”

The decision to add this condition to the certificate was made to accommodate the different areas within each specialty in which members are practising, and to provide for the growing trend for hybrid imaging equipment which crosses traditional modalities by merging two technologies into a single piece of equipment. Other colleges have similar conditions in place on their certificates of registration. For example, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) has this condition in place to manage the many practice areas in which physicians work.

No more paper!

Results from the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics consultation survey, which ran from November 9 to November 30, 2017, showed that members overwhelmingly want to move to paperless communication from CMRTO. 80% of those who participated in the survey told CMRTO ‘no thank you’ to paper communications and desired a move to electronic communications only.

Members are required to provide CMRTO with an email address that is distinct from the email address of any other member and that the member checks personally on a regular basis. (See CMRTO [By-law No. 28](#) about the information members must provide to the CMRTO.)

Beginning on January 1, 2018, the following items will be sent to CMRTO members by email only:

- all registration processes, notices and information items will become electronic with the exception of a suspension letter which will be sent by both email and by mail
- the Standards of Practice Handbook
- the QA program and portfolio (ePortfolio)

The Multi-Source Feedback (MSF) Assessment patient surveys will still be paper-based for ease of use, and will still be submitted by mail. The QA ‘Met Requirements’ letter will be sent by both email and mail, as will communications related to any professional conduct or fitness to practise processes.

New Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics

Effective January 1, 2018, diagnostic medical sonography is regulated with the CMRTO as a fifth specialty! This change required amending the CMRTO's Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics to take into account that the practice of medical radiation technology now includes 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 procedure.

The CMRTO's Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics set out the minimum requirements for professional practice and conduct for members, and are meant to assure the quality of professional practice.

When the revised Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics came into effect on January 1, 2018, CMRTO sent all current members notice by email, and PDF copies of the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics were posted to the CMRTO website.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the revised Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, and reflect on how your practice meets the expectations that all CMRTO members are competent, accountable and collaborative in their practice of the profession to ensure safe, effective and ethical outcomes for your patients. You can find the [Standards of Practice](#) and [Code of Ethics](#) on the CMRTO website.

Legislation Learning Package

The changes to the legislation in order to regulate diagnostic medical sonography also meant the CMRTO Legislation Learning Package needed to be revised.

The language of the Legislation Learning Package has been amended to reflect the following changes:

- diagnostic medical sonography is now regulated with the CMRTO as a fifth specialty
- the practice of medical radiation technology now includes 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 procedure

As an applicant, you are required to review the documents and legislation described in the Legislation Learning Package and sign and submit the Certificate of Completion with your completed Application Form before you can become a member of CMRTO. You can find the Legislation Learning Package [here](#).

New QA program

As you may have already read in the email sent to all members at the beginning of January, the CMRTO Quality Assurance (QA) program has been updated effective January 1, 2018, to bring it in line with the revised Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, which came into effect on January 1, 2018.

Based on these changes and the regulation of sonographers, the Quality Assurance (QA) Committee reviewed the QA program and implemented some changes. In determining what changes should be made, the QA Committee considered:

- the revised Standards of Practice
- ways to make the QA Portfolio easier to use
- ways to improve and maintain member compliance with the QA program

The revised QA program can be found on the CMRTO website [here](#).

QA ePortfolio

Effective January 1, 2018, the Quality Assurance (QA) ePortfolio is the only method available to members to record their self-assessments and participation in continuing education or professional development. The print version of the QA Portfolio is no longer available.

The QA ePortfolio has been revised to make it easier for members to complete. The ePortfolio now has only three components to it:

- the QA Profile
- the Self-Assessment
- the Record of Continuing Education and Professional Development

These are required components that must be completed every year by every member.

The QA Profile and Self-Assessment sections are updated to reflect the revised Standards of Practice. The section “Professional Development Plan” has been removed as it was an optional component and created confusion for members.

The Record of Continuing Education and Professional Development form has also been simplified by eliminating the optional areas.

When you login to your 2018 ePortfolio, you will see the updated version.

QA Portfolio (print version)

The QA Committee also determined that beginning in 2018 the QA Portfolio (print version) will no longer be available. See the article ‘No more paper’ in this edition of *Insights* for more information.

Multi-Source Feedback (MSF) Assessment

The MSF assessment will now have the peers’ and co-workers’ surveys and the self-assessment survey available online only. This means using much less paper and, makes it easier for members to keep track of when their surveys have been completed. The patient surveys will still be paper-based for ease of use and will still be submitted by mail. The surveys are also updated to reflect the revised Standards of Practice.

Individual Practice Assessment (IPA)

The QA Committee has completed the revision of the IPA process. The circumstances under which a member will be selected by the QA Committee to participate in an IPA with an assessor include when, based on an assessment of the QA Portfolio or an MSF assessment, the QA Committee is of the opinion that there may be a gap in a member’s practice and a further assessment of the member’s practice is required.

Other Changes

The QuickQA app will be updated in early 2018 to match the changes to the QA ePortfolio.

As you know, all members must participate in the CMRTO’s QA program as part of maintaining and improving their competence. Monitoring compliance with this professional requirement is an important responsibility of the CMRTO QA Committee.

The QA Committee monitors on an annual basis the number of members that have been selected for a quality assurance (QA) assessment. Until 2015, members who had not been selected in the previous five years were in the pool from which the QA Committee randomly selected members for a QA assessment. This meant there were some members who had been selected multiple times throughout their careers and other members who had been practising for many years and who had never been selected.

After the 2016 random selection process, the QA Committee noted that 48% of active members still had never been selected to submit their QA Portfolio for assessment or undergo an MSF assessment

For the 2016 and the 2017 random selections, it was decided to randomly select from the pool of members who had never been selected. As a result, 918 and 919 members were randomly selected in 2016 and 2017 respectively, of which none had been selected previously. This leaves approximately 29% of active members who have not yet been selected for a QA assessment, excluding new members.

In order to ensure that all the members who have not yet been required to undergo a QA assessment are required to do so by the end of 2018, it was decided that for the 2018 QA year, the remaining members who have been registered with the College for more than one year and who have never been selected for a QA assessment, will be required to either submit their QA ePortfolio for assessment or to undergo an MSF assessment. The group that will be required to undergo the MSF assessment in 2018 will be randomly selected from the members who

have never been selected for a QA assessment, and the balance of the remaining members will be required to submit their 2018 QA ePortfolios in January 2019.



Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act, 2017

At the end of September, the Ontario Government introduced Bill 160, *Strengthening Quality and Accountability for Patients Act, 2017*. The Act has now become law but many provisions have not yet been proclaimed into force.

Among other extensive changes (including amending six statutes, enacting two new statutes and repealing another four statutes), a schedule of the *Strengthening Quality and Accountability for Patients Act, 2017* will repeal the current *Medical Radiation Technology Act* and replace it with the *Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act, 2017* (MRIT Act). We are now waiting for proclamation of the MRIT Act, and anticipate it will come into force on January 1, 2019.

The MRIT Act has significant implications for CMRTO members and for the province's diagnostic medical sonographers:

1. In addition to earlier direction by the government to regulate diagnostic medical sonographers as part of the CMRTO, the MRIT Act will change the name of the profession to "medical radiation and imaging technology".
2. The scope of practice of medical radiation and imaging technology will set out the use of soundwaves for the purposes of diagnostic procedures in the Act rather than as a regulation.

3. The CMRTO's name will be changed to the College of Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists of Ontario (CMRITO).
4. The MRIT Act will add "diagnostic medical sonographer" as a title restricted to members of the new CMRITO. In other words, no person other than a member of the CMRITO will be permitted to use that title or hold themselves out as qualified to practise in the specialty of diagnostic medical sonography.



New CMM system

CMRTO is doing a complete system upgrade from our current CRM (Customer Relationship Management) software and transitioning into a 'cloud'-based CMM (College Membership Management) system.

This will mean a brand new member services interface for members with expanded functionality. As a security measure all members will be required to log into the new Online Member Services. You will be sent an email with a link to access the new portal. Your username will become the email address that you have provided to CMRTO, and you can use your current password in the new portal or create a new one if you prefer.

When the new system is ready, members will be able to reinstate, resign, request out of province certificates and letters of good standing, and request a change of name using the online services. There is functionality for the upload of documents and all payments will be completely online through Visa, Mastercard and Interac – no more cheques! Access to past receipts will also be available to resigned members.

There will also be a new online application portal for all applications. Applicants will be able to upload documents and see the status of their applications and will receive notifications by email when they have completed important milestones in the process. Once applicants are ready to register with the CMRTO, they will be able to do that online too!

We expect these changes to come into effect late February 2018.



Suspended members

There were no members whose certificates of registration were suspended between November 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, 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 CMRTO unless and until the suspension is removed.

CMRTO
375 University Avenue, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2J5
tel 416.975.4353 fax 416.975.4355
1.800.563.5847
www.cmрто.org

The mission of the CMRTO is to regulate the profession of medical radiation technology to serve and protect the public interest.

VISION: The CMRTO is a future-focused, responsive, collaborative regulator committed to excellence.

VALUES: Integrity | Fairness | Transparency | Respect | Professionalism

Registrar & CEO Ms. Linda Gough

President Ms. Wendy Rabbie

Vice President Ms. Angela Cashell

inSIGHTS is published by the College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario and is distributed to all members.

Editor Ms. Linda Gough

Design and Production
Crescent Design

Copy Writing
Social Reach Consulting



College of
Medical Radiation
Technologists of
Ontario

Ordre des
technologues en
radiation médicale
de l'Ontario