



Jurisprudence

Module 2 – Standards of Practice

In this module you will learn about

- Who is responsible for establishing standards of practice for the profession
- How the CMRITO Standards of Practice set expectations of professional practice for registrants
- How Standards of Practice are used by managers, educators, the public and the CMRITO
- The Standards of Practice and examples of some indicators for each of the following areas
 - Legislation standards & ethics
 - Equipment & material
 - Diagnostic & therapeutic procedures
 - Safe practice
 - Relationship with patients
 - Professional relationships
 - Records & reporting
 - Continuing competence

Resources to include with Module 2

- CMRITO Standards of Practice
www.cmrito.org/pdfs/standards/standards-of-practice.pdf
- CMRITO Code of Ethics
www.cmrito.org/pdfs/code/code-of-ethics.pdf



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Module 2 – Standards of Practice

The College of Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists of Ontario (CMRITO or the “College”) is the regulatory body for medical radiation and imaging technologists in Ontario. The mission of the CMRITO is to regulate the profession of medical radiation and imaging technology to serve and protect the public interest. One of the ways the CMRITO meets its mission is by establishing and enforcing standards of practice for its registrants. The Standards of Practice set out the expectations for professional practice of registrants of the CMRITO when practising in Ontario.

Please note that the CMRITO Standards of Practice are different than the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) or Sonography Canada Competency Profiles. Competency Profiles describe the competencies required for entry to practice and provide the foundation for the development of the CAMRT and Sonography Canada’s certification examinations. There are five specialties: radiography, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance and diagnostic medical sonography, which have several areas of practice. Each specialty and area of practice has its own Competency Profile and examination. The CMRITO Standards of Practice, on the other hand, set out the standards of professional practice and conduct for registrants of the CMRITO. Although certain indicators within each practice standard may be specific to only one of the five specialties, the Standards of Practice apply to the practice of all registrants.

The CMRITO Standards of Practice

- set out **minimum standards** of professional practice and conduct for registrants
- assist registrants in understanding the **CMRITO’s expectations** with respect to the professional practice of medical radiation and imaging technology
- help managers in making **appropriate decisions** regarding management of the practice of the registrants of the CMRITO and in developing suitable policies and procedures
- assist educators in **developing curriculum** and in providing appropriate instruction
- assist the public in assessing **quality of care**

The Standards of Practice are used by the CMRITO in determining whether registrants have maintained appropriate standards of practice and conduct. They are used by the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC) and the Discipline Committee in making determinations regarding professional misconduct and incompetence. They are also used for other CMRITO processes such as ascertaining entry-level requirements for registration and are the basis for the Quality Assurance (QA) Program.

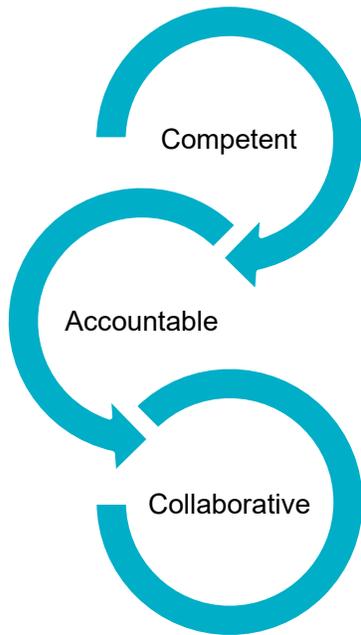
In the event that the Standards of Practice set a standard that is higher than departmental policy or procedure, the registrant **must comply** with the standard set by the Standards of Practice.

Standards of Practice > Departmental Policy or Procedure

The Standards of Practice reflect the knowledge, skills and judgement that registrants need in order to perform the services and procedures that fall within the scope of practice of the profession. The *Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act* (MRIT Act) sets out the scope of practice statement for medical radiation technology, as follows:

“The practice of medical radiation and imaging technology is the use of ionizing radiation, electromagnetism, soundwaves and other prescribed forms of energy for the purposes 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.”

The Standards of Practice are intended to be generic. Under the CMRITO's Standards of Practice, registrants are expected to be:



- **Competent** means that registrants must maintain competence in their current area of practice, must refrain from acting if not competent, and must take appropriate action to address each situation.
- **Accountable** means that registrants must take appropriate action if they feel the interests of the patient are being unnecessarily and unacceptably compromised. This includes not implementing ordered procedures or treatment plans that, from their perspective, appear to be contraindicated, and in this event, taking appropriate action to address the situation.
- **Collaborative** means that registrants are responsible for communicating and coordinating care provisions with other members of the health care team, and taking appropriate action to address gaps and differences in judgement about care provision.

All registrants are responsible for ensuring that they are practising the profession of medical radiation and imaging technology in accordance with the Standards of Practice. Each standard has a number of indicators, some of which apply to all specialties and some of which are specialty specific. Registrants should be familiar with all of the Standards of Practice and the indicators applicable to the specialty in which the registrant will be practising. Not maintaining the Standards of Practice is considered to be professional misconduct under the professional misconduct regulation of the MRIT Act.

The Standards of Practice have eight Practice Standards applicable to **all of the specialties** and are described under eight sections. They are:



Below, you will find an explanation of each of the eight Standards of Practice. Each Practice Standard includes a statement of the legal and professional obligations of registrants under each standard. Each Practice Standard also includes indicators, which describe how registrants

are expected to apply the standard. These indicators can be used to determine if the standards are being maintained. The indicators are not outlined in order of importance, nor are they an all-inclusive list of all applications of a standard. General indicators are applicable to all registrants, while specific indicators apply only to specific specialties.

In this module, only select indicators are listed. For a complete list of indicators for all eight standards of practice, consult the CMRITO's Standards of Practice.

For the full text of the CMRITO's Standards of Practice, please consult the CMRITO's website [here](#).

1. Legislation, standards and ethics

In order to be registered as registrants of the College of Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists of Ontario, registrants must meet the professional education and other registration requirements set by the College. They must continue to educate themselves about practical, legal, ethical and other matters pertaining to the profession. Registrants must be competent, accountable and collaborative in their practice.

Practice Standard: Registrants must understand, and adhere to, the legislation governing the practice of the profession, the Standards and Practice set by the College, the Code of Ethics and the by-laws of the College.

Indicators

Registrants must:

- have the knowledge, skills and judgement to perform procedures undertaken in the course of practising their professions
- take responsibility for decisions and actions, including those undertaken independently and those undertaken as a member of a team
- work with other members of the health care team to achieve the best possible outcomes for the patient

2. Equipment and materials

The practice of registrants entails the use of a wide range of equipment and materials. Registrants must know and understand the functions, capabilities, specifications and hazards of the equipment and materials they use in the course of their practice.

Practice Standard: Registrants must have the knowledge, skills and judgement to select the appropriate equipment and materials for procedures ordered by a physician or other authorized health professional, to make determinations as to the quality, serviceability and operability of the equipment and materials, and to take any corrective actions required to meet standards set by

legislation, facility policies and manufacturers' guidelines. Registrants must be skilled in making safe, efficient and effective use of resources to produce the desired examination information or deliver safe, effective treatment.

Indicators

Registrants must:

- determine the quality, serviceability, and operability of the equipment and materials to be used in the procedure in accordance with the standards set by legislation, facility policies and manufacturers' guidelines, and if the standards are not met, take corrective action
- determine, set and verify the technique and protocol to be used in the procedure
- make use of appropriate shielding devices

What are considered appropriate shielding devices may vary from facility to facility. Since facility policy will inform this decision, registrants should ensure that they are aware of their facility's policy on the use of appropriate shielding devices.

3. Diagnostic and therapeutic procedures

Registrants employ ionizing radiation, radiopharmaceuticals, electromagnetism and soundwaves to create images and data that are part of diagnostic imaging examinations or that are used for defining and recording treatment parameters. These images may be dynamic, on film, digital displays, three-dimensional models or templates. Registrants in the specialties of radiation therapy and nuclear medicine administer ionizing radiation to treat cancer and other diseases.

Registrants who apply ionizing radiation do so under the authority of and in accordance with the *Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act* (HARP Act) and, where applicable, the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSC Act) and their respective regulations. Registrants are permitted to apply electromagnetism for magnetic resonance imaging under an exemption set out in the Controlled Acts regulation made under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*. Registrants are also permitted to apply soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound under an exemption set out in the Controlled Acts regulation made under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*.

Registrants perform five controlled acts, which they are authorized to perform under the *Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act* (MRIT Act). These authorized acts are:

1. administering substances by injection or inhalation;
2. tracheal suctioning of a tracheostomy;
3. administering contrast media or putting an instrument, hand or finger,
 - a. beyond the opening of the urethra,
 - b. beyond the labia majora,
 - c. beyond the anal verge, or

- d. into an artificial opening of the body;
4. performing a procedure on tissue below the dermis; and
5. applying a prescribed form of energy.

Practice Standard: Registrants must be able to create images and data that are sufficiently accurate and clear for the diagnostic or therapeutic procedures that are ordered by a physician or other authorized health professional. In the case of procedures that use ionizing radiation, registrants use only the minimum amount of radiation necessary during the course of the procedure. Registrants performing procedures using soundwaves for diagnostic medical ultrasound use the minimum acoustic power output and minimum exposure time. Registrants must be proficient in evaluating the images, data and tests relating to the procedures to ensure that the images, data and tests are satisfactory.

Registrants must be able to administer ionizing radiation, radiopharmaceuticals, electromagnetism for magnetic resonance imaging and soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound accurately and in accordance with the order of the physician or other authorized health professional for the diagnostic or therapeutic procedure and the applicable legislation. Registrants must not apply or administer ionizing radiation or radiopharmaceuticals unless the conditions under the applicable legislation (including without limitation, the *Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act* its regulations and the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* and its regulations and licences issued thereunder) have been met.

Under the *Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act*, registrants are authorized to perform five controlled acts (“authorized acts”) as required in the course of engaging in the practice of the profession. They must not perform the authorized acts or any exempted controlled act unless the conditions under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the *Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act* and their respective regulations, and the Standards of Practice have been met.

Indicators

Registrants must:

- perform procedures, including authorized acts, only in the course of engaging in the practice of the profession
- have and apply the necessary knowledge, skills and judgement to perform and manage the outcomes of performing the procedure safely, effectively and ethically

4. Safe practice

Registrants operate equipment, apply ionizing radiation, electromagnetism for magnetic resonance imaging and soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound, and administer radiopharmaceuticals. All of these could be dangerous if used incorrectly. Registrants endeavour, at all times and in every aspect of their practice, to reduce the risk of harm to their

patients, to themselves, to their colleagues and to any other individuals who may be present in the practice environment.

Practice Standard: Registrants must have and maintain the knowledge, skills and judgement to practise safely by adhering to all relevant provincial and federal legislation and guidelines, departmental protocols and policies and manufacturers' directions pertaining to health and safety. In the event of any unexpected problems or emergencies, registrants must be competent and prepared to handle or to assist in the management of the situation.

Indicators

Registrants must:

- verify the patient's identity for all diagnostic or therapeutic procedures
- assess the patient's physical and emotional limitations and ensure that the patient will not be expected to perform any task or movement that would cause physical harm
- use the ALARA principle to minimize patient exposure to radiation and soundwaves for the procedure
- use appropriate aseptic techniques and infection control procedures in the course of the diagnostic or therapeutic procedure

The third indicator outlined above engages the ALARA principle. Guided by the "As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA)" principle, registrants apply their knowledge of radiation and or soundwave effects and risks to minimize the exposure to radiation or soundwaves for their patients, other healthcare colleagues and the public.

5. Relationships with patients

Registrants have patient care as their main concern.

Practice Standard: Registrants must maintain clear and professional boundaries in relationships with patients and treat all patients with dignity and respect. Registrants must have the knowledge, skills and judgement to avoid placing patients at unnecessary risk of harm, pain or distress. Registrants must be able to provide appropriate responses to patient inquiries about procedures and related issues, and accept the patient's autonomy and the right of the patient or the patient's substitute decision maker to consent to or refuse service. Registrants must understand how and act to protect the confidentiality of all professionally acquired information about patients and the privacy of patients with respect to that information, while facilitating the effective delivery of health care.

Indicators

Registrants must:

- instruct the patient to remove only the clothing and items that will interfere with the diagnostic or therapeutic procedures
- provide the patient with a gown or sheet to cover areas where clothing was removed
- explain to the patient when and where the registrant may touch them and why
- touch the patient only in those areas needed to facilitate carrying out the procedure
- keep all patient information confidential except when necessary to facilitate diagnosis or treatment of the patient, or when legally obliged or allowed to disclose such information
- comply with any applicable privacy legislation such as the *Personal Health Information Protection Act* (PHIPA) and its regulations

6. Professional relationships

Professional relationships in health care settings are based on mutual trust and respect, and result in improved patient care.

Practice Standard: Registrants must be able to practise effectively within interprofessional care teams to achieve the best possible outcomes for the patient. Registrants are responsible for communicating about and coordinating care provision with other members of the team, and must be able to take the appropriate action to address gaps and differences in judgement about care provision.

Registrants may accept the delegation of controlled acts under the *Regulated Health Professions Act* not authorized to registrants under the *Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act*, provided they comply with the *Regulated Health Professions Act* and the Standards of Practice. Registrants cannot delegate to other individuals controlled acts authorized to registrants under the *Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act*.

Indicators

Registrants must:

- use a wide range of communication and interpersonal skills to effectively establish and maintain professional relationships
- resolve concerns about an order or treatment plan by:
 - discussing the concern directly with the responsible health professional
 - providing a rationale and best practice evidence in support of the concern
 - identifying outcomes desired for resolution
 - documenting the concern and steps taken to resolve it in the appropriate record

7. Records and reporting

Creating and maintaining records and reports are essential components of the professional practice of registrants. Registrants' records and reports provide information to other health care professionals about relevant aspects of patient care, treatment and assessment.

Practice Standard: Registrants must be proficient in creating records, charts, incident and other reports that attest to the diagnostic, treatment, quality assurance, workplace and patient safety procedures that have been carried out. Registrants must have the knowledge, skills and judgement to record information that will adequately identify the subjects of all the images and data they create and treatments they administer. Registrants must produce records and reports that are accurate, complete, legible and timely.

Indicators

Registrants must:

- record and report any equipment faults or problems
- mark all images and data with the patient's identity

8. Continuing competence

Registrants must maintain competence in their current area of practice and continually improve their competence in order to respond to changes in practice environments, advances in technology and the changing health care environment.

Practice Standard: Registrants must have, maintain and apply the necessary knowledge, skills and judgement to ensure safe, effective and ethical outcomes for the patient. Registrants must maintain competence in their current area of practice and must refrain from acting if not competent. Registrants must obtain and maintain the necessary knowledge, skills and judgement to respond to changes in practice environments, advances in technology and other emerging issues. Registrants must participate in the College's Quality Assurance program as part of maintaining and improving their competence.

Indicators

Registrants must:

- obtain and maintain the necessary knowledge, skills and judgement to respond to changes in practice environments, advances in technology and other emerging issues
- participate in the College's Quality Assurance Program