



What you must know about ... illegal practice

The mandate of the College of Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists of Ontario (CMRITO) is to serve and protect the public interest by regulating the practice of medical radiation and imaging technology. CMRITO does this by registering only those individuals who are qualified to practice (by meeting all the registration requirements set out in the Registration Regulation¹) and by making sure its registrants are practising competently, safely and ethically.

Mandatory registration protects the public

The public of Ontario has the right to receive medical radiation and imaging technology services from qualified medical radiation and imaging technologists (MRITs) who are registered with CMRITO and held accountable to practise the profession in accordance with the Standards of Practice set by the CMRITO. An individual must be registered with CMRITO to:

- practise in any of the five specialties regulated by CMRITO (radiography, radiation therapy, nuclear medicine, magnetic resonance and diagnostic medical sonography)
- hold themselves out as a medical radiation and imaging technologist²
- use the specialty titles and abbreviations appropriate to their specialty:
 - Medical Radiation Technologist – Radiography, or MRT(R)
 - Medical Radiation Technologist – Radiation Therapy or Medical Radiation Technologist – Radiation Therapist, or MRT(T)
 - Medical Radiation Technologist – Nuclear Medicine, or MRT(N)
 - Medical Radiation Technologist – Magnetic Resonance, or MRT(MR)
 - Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, or DMS

¹ Ontario Regulation 866/93 made under the *Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act, 2017*.

² This means using any of the following titles “medical radiation and imaging technologist”, “diagnostic medical sonographer”, “radiological technologist”, “radiation therapist”, “nuclear medicine technologist”, “magnetic resonance technologist”, a variation or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language.

It is illegal for an individual who is not a registrant of CMRITO to practise the profession in Ontario, hold themselves out as someone who is qualified to practise in Ontario, or use the restricted titles “medical radiation and imaging technologist”, “diagnostic medical sonographer”, “radiological technologist”, “radiation therapist”, “nuclear medicine technologist”, “magnetic resonance technologist”, a variation or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language as set out in the *Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act, 2017*.

How are students able to perform medical radiation and imaging technology procedures without being registered with CMRITO?

There are exemptions in place under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* and the *Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act* that permit students to perform authorized acts, apply ionizing radiation, electromagnetism for MRI and soundwaves for diagnostic ultrasound while they are actively enrolled in an approved educational program and under the supervision of a registrant of CMRITO.³

These exemptions are important to permit students enrolled in a CMRITO approved educational program to gain the necessary clinical skills to practise safely, competently and ethically. The exemptions do not apply to individuals who are not enrolled in a CMRITO approved educational program, even if the individual is supervised by a CMRITO registrant.

Are new graduates able to perform medical radiation and imaging technology procedures without being registered with CMRITO?

In between completing an educational program and becoming registered with CMRITO, these exemptions do not apply even if a new graduate is supervised by a CMRITO registrant. Therefore, practising the profession after completing an educational program and before becoming registered with CMRITO would be illegal practice.

What if an individual practises illegally and then applies for registration with CMRITO?

If CMRITO discovers information to suggest that an applicant for registration is currently practising or may have practised illegally, that information is reviewed and considered as part of their application for registration.

The "Good Character" provision in CMRITO's Registration Regulation outlines that an applicant's past and present conduct will be used to assess whether the applicant will practise the profession of medical radiation and imaging technology with decency, honesty and integrity, and in accordance with the law.

³ For more information about students performing medical radiation and imaging technology procedures while enrolled in a CMRITO-approved educational program, refer to [What you must know about ... performing procedures](#).

An applicant's illegal practice will be considered by the Registrar and may result in their application being referred to the Registration Committee. Following the assessment of an individual's application for registration, the Registration Committee may:

- refuse to issue a certificate of registration
- impose specified terms, conditions and limitations (TCLs) on an applicant's certificate of registration and limit the applicant's right to apply for a variation of those TCLs
- issue a certificate of registration

What if an individual is registered to practise the profession in another jurisdiction?

An individual **must** be registered with CMRITO to practise as a medical radiation and imaging technologist in Ontario. There are no exceptions. If an individual licensed in another jurisdiction outside of Ontario practises illegally in Ontario before they are properly registered with CMRITO, that information is reviewed as part of their application for registration.

What if an individual is certified by a credentialing body?

Registration with a regulatory college and certification from a credentialing body are not equal or interchangeable. As health professionals, individuals may hold credentials from national certification bodies such as the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) or Sonography Canada, or other organizations such as the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS). However, this is not the same as being registered with a provincial regulator.

Certification is a measure of the skill and knowledge of an individual at a point in time and may be required by a regulator for entry to practice to the profession. Regulators such as CMRITO ensure the competence of the regulated professional, not just at the time of registration, but throughout their career by requiring participation in continuing competence programs such as the Quality Assurance Program, and by having mechanisms to address professional misconduct and fitness to practise.

Registration with a regulator ensures that an individual possesses the skills, knowledge and experience to practice safely, effectively and ethically in a particular jurisdiction. While employers may require specific credentials as a condition of employment, this is not a replacement for the legal requirement for MRITs to be registered with CMRITO to practice the profession in Ontario. Anyone practising the profession without being registered with CMRITO is engaging in illegal practice.

What can employers do to make sure MRITs are legally authorized to practice?

Employers should use the CMRITO public register to verify the registration status of every medical radiation and imaging technologist they employ. The public register is updated a number of times each day and contains the most current information on every active and past registrant.

Employers are able to search the public register by place of practice and download a copy of the list of registrants who have listed that facility as their place of practice. The [public register](#) can be accessed on the [CMRITO website](#).

If it comes to an employer's attention that an individual who is not registered with CMRITO is seeking employment as an MRIT or is currently practising the profession without being registered, they are encouraged to contact CMRITO.

What does CMRITO do when it receives information that an individual has engaged in illegal practice in Ontario?

CMRITO takes its role to protect the public of Ontario seriously and follows up on any reports of individuals practising the profession in Ontario without being registered with CMRITO. This may result in the refusal of an application of registration, or prosecution by Ontario's Superior Court.

You can find the names of individuals who have been found guilty by the Ontario Superior Court of illegally practising the profession on the CMRITO website. These individuals are **not** registrants of CMRITO.

Why is it important for individuals to be registered with CMRITO to practise medical radiation and imaging technology?

Registration with CMRITO protects the public by ensuring that all MRITs practising in Ontario are meeting the Standards of Practice of the profession.

As a regulator, CMRITO only has jurisdiction over its registrants. Therefore, if a member of the public has concerns about the actions of an unregistered individual, CMRITO is unable to investigate a complaint or consider a report regarding that person's conduct.

Further information about the role of CMRITO and the registration requirements and process can be found on the CMRITO website at www.cmrito.org.



CMRITO
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