ISRRT Position Statement

The Radiographer’s/Radiological Technologist’s Role in Communication and Education of Patient, Health Care Team Professionals, and the Public

AUGUST 2021
ISRRT's Position Statement of the Radiographer’s/Radiological Technologist’s Role in Communication and Education of Patient, Health Care Team Professionals, and the Public

The ISRRT considers communication and education to be part of the radiographer’s/radiological technologist’s scope of practice. Radiographers/radiological technologists share their expertise in medical imaging when communicating and educating the patient, health care professionals and the public about radiological procedures.

It is the responsibility of radiographers/radiological technologists to act as the primary liaison between patients, licensed practitioners and other health care team members. Radiographers/radiological technologists think critically and use independent, professional and ethical judgment when explaining the procedure to the patient and/or care provider, and when necessary, obtaining the assistance of an interpreter or translator. Radiographers/radiological technologists provide accurate explanation and instructions at the level that a patient and their care providers can understand as well as addressing questions and concerns regarding the procedure.

Communication and education to the patient includes but is not limited to:

- Providing information about the purpose of procedures and related health issues according to established protocols.
- Providing pre-procedural information including fasting, diet, hydration, and suspension of interfering medication when appropriate.
- Providing instructions on matters relating to breathing, keeping still and other procedure requirements prior to and during the procedure for maximum outcome.
- Providing radiation safety and magnetic resonance safety information.
- Providing information regarding biological effects and related precautions of ionizing radiation procedures.
- Providing information regarding potential side effects of drugs and medications.

ISRRT Position Statement on Communication and Education of Patient, Health Care Team Professionals, and the Public. August 2021
- Providing instructions to patients on the use of radiation protective devices to decrease unnecessary radiation during the procedure.
- Providing written and verbal information about procedures to patients and verifying understanding.
- Providing information regarding complex and technical matters related to medical radiation technology to the level of the respondent's understanding.
- Providing post-procedure and aftercare instructions.
- Responding to questions from patients and/or care providers or directing them to appropriate personnel.

**Communication and education to providers, health care team professionals and the public includes but is not limited to:**

- Adapting interactions to enhance communication with the patient and support professionals.
- Contributing knowledge of medical radiation technology in collaborative practice.
- Explaining complex and technical matters related to medical radiation technology to the level of the respondent's understanding.
- Providing ethical training and guidance for students, colleagues and collaborators. It is expected that the radiographer shares professional skills with colleagues.
- Responding to patient health care staff requesting information following procedures or directs them to appropriate personnel.
- Providing complete data information about procedures to support staff and verifying their understanding.
- Providing pre-procedural information to providers and other health care teams including fasting, diet, hydration and suspension of interfering medication when appropriate.
- Providing radiation safety education and magnetic resonance safety education when appropriate.
- Providing post-procedure and aftercare instructions.
- Providing information regarding associated biological effects.
- Providing radiation protection procedure instructions.
- Providing education regarding organ specific sensitivities and safe practices.
- Providing procedure information regarding risk and safe practices.

ISRRT Position Statement on Communication and Education of Patient, Health Care Team Professionals, and the Public. August 2021
The radiographer/radiological technologist upholds the reputation of the profession, and publicly makes it clear when expressing personal viewpoints or those of the professional group.

Note
The effectiveness of the radiographer’s/radiological technologist’s role in patient communication and education should be subject to independent scrutiny and audit.

References:
- Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists, Competency Profile Radiological Technology, 2014, https://www.camrt.ca/certification-4
- Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Scope of Practice and Clinical Standards for the Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, https://www.sdms.org/about/who-we-are/scope-of-practice

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Note:
Links to external websites may change without notice.

ISRRT Position Statement on Communication and Education of Patient, Health Care Team Professionals, and the Public. August 2021