



ISRRT
INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY OF
RADIOGRAPHERS
& RADIOLOGICAL
TECHNOLOGISTS

ISRRT Position Statement

The Radiographer/Radiological Technologist's Role in Patient Care and Patient Safety

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ISRRT's Position Statement of the Radiographer/Radiological Technologist's Role in Patient Care and Patient Safety

The ISRRT considers patient care and patient safety during medical imaging and radiation therapeutic procedures to be an inherent part of the radiographer's/radiological technologist's scope of practice. The radiographer/radiological technologist ensures the safety, dignity and integrity of the patient, the right to self-determination, and the right of any patient to be examined and treated in a manner consistent with their own values and priorities with optimum patient care and in accordance with the medical condition. Additionally, equal consideration is given to those individuals receiving radiographic care who do not have a medical condition, such as clients for screening or obstetric ultrasound.

As professionals, radiographers/ radiological technologists accept the responsibility for delivering optimised doses of ionizing radiation to patients, including research applications, consistent with established protocols and stated national guidelines. Radiographers/radiological technologists exercise their independent, professional and ethical judgment in all aspects of assessing and monitoring the patient's physical, emotional and mental status during all aspects of their patient centered care.

As an essential part of the health care team with expertise in patient care radiographers/radiological technologists determine the appropriate plan to enhance patient safety and comfort in the diagnostic imaging and radiation therapeutic environment. They ensure the ALARA/ALARP principles are followed to optimize diagnostic and therapeutic quality. They communicate effectively with patients, carers and clinical colleagues to ensure that patient care and safety are optimized and effective. Additionally, they recognize and respond appropriately to factors such as ethnicity, gender, language, mental ability, race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status and other variables which may influence the course of the required investigation/treatment.

Patient care and safety must include but are not limited to:

The radiographer/radiological technologist:

- Verifies the patient identity including the accuracy and completeness of pre-procedure documentation such as the imaging request or any necessary additional clinical data.
- Verifies that the procedure has been requested by an authorised person.
- Reviews clinical history provided relative to requested procedure and addresses any discrepancies.
- Verifies the appropriateness of the procedure requested.
- Documents accurately the procedure requested to prevent any further duplication of requests for the same examination.
- Interacts with the patient to ensure that the patient is aware of benefits and risks of the exposure
- Verifies that the patient has consented to the procedure.
- Verifies the patient's pregnancy status wherever appropriate and if necessary, arranges for a pregnancy test whilst complying with defined local pregnancy rules.
- Assesses the patient for any potential contraindications to the diagnostic procedure requested and associated medications and responds accordingly with an approved alternative.
- Selects the appropriate protocol that allows for optimal patient safety and care based on the patient's condition.
- Adapts procedures, techniques and protocols based on changes to the patient's physical, clinical and cognitive status before and during a procedure.
- Monitors compliance with the requirements of staff and patient universal and standard protective precautions.
- Records the examination dose and images acquired for further reference and research and adherence of defined diagnostic reference levels (DRLs).
- Monitors the patient's physical status and responds to adverse patient vital signs.
- Administers first aid or provides life support when needed.
- Applies the principles of aseptic techniques and other measures to reduce the risk of infection.
- Identifies and removes items that may affect patient's safety, damage the equipment or affect the procedure quality.
- Practices radiation protection in accordance with best practice and to comply with prevailing regulations.

- Minimises the risk of adverse effects from radiation, magnetic fields, administered contrast media and drugs by use of local rules and protocols.
- Applies the ALARA/ALARO principles.
- Makes checks to ensure that procedures are performed in a safe physical environment.
- Is attentive to the patient and delivers appropriate care irrespective of the pressure of time and/or a particularly technically demanding procedure.
- Arranges for the safe transportation of the patient including any necessary moving and handling of the patient within the imaging/therapy suite and prevents patients' falls, in line with international patient safety goals.
- Arranges the safe transportation of equipment during procedures for patient safety and comfort including any procedures undertaken remotely such as wards, specialised units and operating theatres and the use of preservation of all life saving devices.
- Undertakes checks to ensure that patient supportive devices and mobility equipment are functioning safely in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions through regular equipment quality control checks.
- Provides any appropriate aftercare and also explains the next steps in the care and management the patient episode of care.

The effectiveness of the radiographer/radiological technologist role in patient care and patient safety should be subject to independent scrutiny and audit.

References:

American Society of Radiologic Technologists, Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy, <https://www.asrt.org/main/standards-and-regulations/professional-practice>

Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists, Competency Profile Radiological Technology:
<https://www.camrt.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Modified-Rad-Tech-Profile-Final.pdf>

Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists, Current Competency Profiles <https://www.camrt.ca/certification-4/current-competency-profiles/>

European Qualifications Framework (EQF) Level 6 Benchmarking Document:
Radiographer, Second Edition January 2018:

www.efrs.eu

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>

Society of Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging, Nuclear Medicine
Technologist Scope of Practice and Performance Standards,

<http://www.snmni.org/ClinicalPractice/content.aspx?ItemNumber=4417>

Society of Radiographers - Code of Ethics for Radiographers

https://www.radiograf.no/filer/pdf/R%C3%A5det_for_radiografetik/Yrkesetiske_retningslinjer_for_radiografer_norsk-engelsk2016-.pdf

Society of Radiographers – Code of Professional Conduct Section 1:
Relationships with Patients and Carers:

<https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/code-professional-conduct/section-1-relationships-patients-and-carers>

Society of Radiographers-The Scope of Practice 2013, Environments and roles
Section 2.4:

<https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/scope-practice-2013/2-environments-and-roles>

Wikipedia – Universal precautions - [Universal precautions - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_precautions)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_precaution

**Other helpful documents from the Society of Radiographer ‘IRMER and
procedure check list’ documents: -**

https://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/document-versions/irmer_operator_checklist_for_molecular_2019.pdf

https://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/document-versions/irmer_operator_checklist_for_administration_2019.pdf

https://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/document-versions/irmer_benefits_and_risks_1.pdf

https://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/document-versions/the_impact_of_irmer_0.pdf

<https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/have-you-paused-and-checked-radiotherapy>

<https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/have-you-paused-and-checked-irmer>

Whitley AS, Jefferson G, Holmes K, Sloane C, Anderson C, Hoadley G (2015). *Clark's Positioning in Radiography*, 13th edition, - the patient journey p. 2-7. ISBN 13:978-1-4441-2235-0

Note:

Links to external websites may change without notice.