



ISRRT
INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY OF
RADIOGRAPHERS
& RADIOLOGICAL
TECHNOLOGISTS

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.



- 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.

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:

- ASRT 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, 2014, <https://www.camrt.ca/certification-4>
- European Qualifications Framework (EQF) Level 6 Benchmarking Document: Radiographer, Second Edition January 2018, www.efrs.eu
- Society of Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging, Nuclear Medicine Technologist Scope of Practice and Performance Standards, <http://www.snmmi.org/ClinicalPractice/content.aspx?ItemNumber=4417>
- 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>
- Norwegian Society of Radiographers, Code of Ethics for Radiographers https://www.radiograf.no/filer/pdf/R%C3%A5det_for_radiografetikkk/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 Section2.4: <https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/scope-practice-2013/2-environments-and-roles>



Note:

Links to external websites may change without notice.