POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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DATE EFFECTIVE: 1 March 2001

CROSS REFERENCE: A. Industry Canada's "Medical Imaging Technology Road Map" Aug 2000
B. CAR Brief "Outdated Radiology Equipment: A Diagnostic Crisis", Sept 2000
C. Exec. Comm. Mtg. 22 Nov 11
D. HAPRA
E. Auditor General's Report MRI Safety 2006

Rev. 23 Nov. 2011

ISSUED BY: **Board of Directors**

CATEGORY: **ADMINISTRATION**

SUBJECT: **REPLACEMENT OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

POSITION STATEMENT: It is the position of the Association that medical imaging equipment that cannot provide a safe and high quality examination should be replaced.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

The Working Group for "Future Needs for Medical Imaging in Health Care" in cooperation with Industry Canada produced a report in 1999 which was part of a medical imaging technology road map.

Medical imaging is a significant contributor to the diagnosis and treatment of medical problems and covers all aspects of the development and use of products and systems which capture, store, integrate, analyze, transmit, report on and display human body

images for diagnostic and therapeutic medical purposes (Industry Canada, 1999).

Since medical imaging is about perceiving, or reconstructing, reality based on data recovered from imaging modalities, the state of that equipment is critical to the diagnosis and therapeutic processes.

Both the Canadian Association and the Ontario Association of Radiologists (CAR and OAR) raised major concerns about outdated medical imaging equipment. They both raised the situation that outdated equipment is creating inefficiencies and safety problems within the Canadian health care system.

Outdated equipment presents a risk in terms of diagnosis and therapy management. It has the potential to increase waiting lists, increase exposure to potentially harmful radiant energies ionizing and non-ionizing, and provide inefficiencies leading to higher health care costs.

Outdated equipment adds to the inefficiency of imaging and therapy facilities due to the frequency of breakdowns, lack of parts, and the costs of the repairs.

As of 1 September 2000 sixty-three (63) percent of diagnostic general X-Ray units were outdated. General X-Ray equipment is responsible for approximately 50% of all imaging studies done in hospitals and independent health facilities (clinics) according to the CAR study. They further reported only a third (1/3) of the overall equipment was upgradeable. This is a serious situation for Canadian health care consumers. Further, 34% of Nuclear Medicine equipment had exceeded its useful life, according to the study.

To meet the needs of an aging population where 80% of diseases occur during the last portion of a Canadian's life, imaging and therapy units will take on a much more demanding and prominent role.

We agree with the CAR and OAR that medical imaging technology has enormous potential to contribute to the improvement in health care. To do that, effective, efficient and appropriate equipment is going to be needed. This means that the government needs to have in place, a medical imaging Strategic Plan to include a medical imaging replacement support plan.