

# **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**DOCUMENT NO:** POSN 02-01-27

**DATE EFFECTIVE:** 1 Nov 08

**CROSS REFERENCE:** A. ICES Literature  
B. MOHLTC's OHTAC  
Discussions  
C. BPS Provincial  
Guidelines

Rev. May 2012

**ISSUED BY:** Board of Directors

**CATEGORY:** ADMINISTRATION - GENERAL

**SUBJECT:** MEDICAL RADIATION SCIENCES EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION

**POSITION:** It is the Position of the Association that selection and acquisition of medical radiation sciences related equipment to be used in delivering patient care by Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Therapy facilities be based on evidence and the value it will bring to the patient population it serves.

**IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:** Most medical radiation sciences equipment poses risks as well as benefits. These risks can be by physical harm through both ionizing or non-ionizing radiations or could be false positive or false negative results that results which could cause treatments that would not help or could even harm the patient. Positive patient outcomes must be the primary driver at all times.

Medical radiation sciences equipment is also expensive and careful selection on the need specific to the role of the facility and the patient population is a driving factor in the sustainment of the Ontario health-care system.

Evidence should always support and justify the need and use of medical radiation sciences equipment. There are too many examples where emotive decision-making has resulted in the wrong equipment being acquired often for the wrong reasons. Those reasons could be due to competition, ignorance on the technology itself, peer pressure and so on. Prior to any equipment being considered whether at the provincial, LHIN or local facility level, the appropriate research must be conducted using the evidence-based approach.

In radiation therapy, for department effectiveness, efficiency, and quality care, it may be advantageous to have one (1) vendor.