

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



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ISSUED BY: Board of Directors
CATEGORY: ADMINISTRATION
SUBJECT: STAFFING STANDARDS – PET/CT

**POSITION
STATEMENT:**

It is the Position of the Association that PET/CT scanners need to be staffed adequately to ensure safe and quality patient care.

**IMPORTANT
CONSIDERATIONS:**

The procedures are complex and there are risk management and patient safety issues involved in both the PET and CT modalities operations.

The guiding principle related to staffing PET/CT operations is to minimize the risk to the patient and staff while still providing high quality imagery and safe patient care. Ionizing radiation whether delivered by the CT unit or through radioactive isotopes concerning the PET scanner is a patient and operator safety matter.

The time it takes to do the procedures from the time the patient comes to the PET/CT facility through to preparing the radioisotope dose to injecting the patient, monitoring, and assessing the patient are all factors concerning staffing the modalities.

Staffing structure should also take into account the organization's work culture. That stated, the staffing model should be in concert with the progressive management philosophies of the day within an organization structured and strategically organized for success.

Some NM Technologists may have recognized competencies and qualifications in operating a diagnostic CT which may limit the need for more than one (1) CT Technologist.

**IDEAL
STAFFING:**

Given the resources a minimum of two (2) CT Technologists are required if there is no NM Technologist present. The majority of diagnostic CT procedures require IV contrast administration, which despite the advances in contrast media formulas still constitutes a risk for the patient. Further, the demands related to the preparation, clinical reviewing, setting up the scanning protocols, and assuring the images for both clinical and technical accuracy require the recommended staffing.

A minimum of two (2) PET Technologists, of the Nuclear Medicine (NM), Discipline are required for safety reasons. Patient preparation is an important component of the procedure and very intensive. The preparation not only involves setting up the room but also involves "hot lab" procedures.

**MINIMUM
STAFFING:**

Given that there is common competencies between the CT and NM Technologists and that workloads may vary depending on the facility, the minimum staffing would be one (1) CT and one (1) NM Technologist.