



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

DOCUMENT NO: POSN 02-02-10
DATE EFFECTIVE: 2 May 09
CROSS REFERENCE: A: Oct 08 BoDs Mtg
B: AMS results; 2003
- 2009

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ISSUED BY: Board of Directors
CATEGORY: EDUCATION
SUBJECT: PRACTICE ENVIRONMENT – MEDICAL
RADIATION TECHNOLOGY

POSITION: It is the Position of the Association that the high level of cognitive, psychological, sociological, cultural and physical demands of the Medical Radiation Technology profession are such that they may be major detriments for those seeking entry into the profession.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS: There are a number of important considerations for those who seek to educate and train in the profession and in those providing guidance related to the profession. The considerations in fact should be viewed as determinants to ensure an individual understands what their practice environment will be like and for those guiding the individuals as to not mislead the individual(s) or to ultimately set them up for failure in the profession.

- Physical - MRTs face physical challenges in their practice. They must lift patients from various modes of transportation and back again often with little or no assistance. They must place patients in a variety of positions for many procedures while the patient is undergoing the procedure/examination. MRTs face violence in the workplace from time to time, placing high stress on their physical capabilities.

MRTs face physical exhaustion due to the one-on-one “hands-on” patient contact. Often procedures are performed by the MRT alone. This is especially so for MRTs who work in Independent Health Facilities (IHF) and for those who work alone on evenings, nights or who are called back into their facility to perform an examination.

MRTs face a varied patient population with all manners of health problems. They are subject to work-related illnesses, injuries, blood borne pathogens, infectious disease, and musculo-skeletal disorders.

- Psycho-social - in that MRTs are facing a variety of patients in terms of their health issues, background and culture. This requires a high level of coping and adapting skills in a very highly charged emotional environment. MRTs therefore require the mental acumen to work well under high pressure, effectively communicate and problem solve in a variety of situations.
- Computer – in that the MRT must, due to the nature of the job and the technology involved, be computer literate.
- MRTs require a high level of interpersonal skills as they work in an inter-professional collaborative environment illustrating that they have self-esteem, a positive attitude and the mental energy to cope.

Potential MRTs are headed for failure in the profession if they:

- Cannot meet the physical rigours of the profession which are many
- Show emotional disconnectedness with people
- Are weak in the ability to effectively critically think and problem solve
- Cannot attend to a patient's sudden change of their health condition while in the MRTs' care in a quick, organized and effective manner.