



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

DOCUMENT NO: POSN 02-02-11

DATE EFFECTIVE:

CROSS REFERENCE: A. Exec Comm Mtg
22 Feb 11
B. 15 Sept 10
BoD Teleconference

Page 1 of 2

Rev. March 2/11

ISSUED BY: Board of Directors

CATEGORY: EDUCATION

SUBJECT: DIRECT ENTRY MRI TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

POSITION: It is the Position of the Association that the entry environment for the education and training of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technologists be consistent with the other Disciplines of the Association – direct entry.

DISCUSSION: The trend in Ontario has been that the education and training of MRI operators has been based on an individual having already been certified in another health-care profession. That certification has generally been related to Medical Radiation Technologists, but some education centres will accept other health-care provider applications. In short, the MRI education and training programs have been post graduate in nature.

The health-care environment is one where shortages of Medical Radiation Technologists (MRTs) are on the horizon. At the same time, government is actively attempting to reduce the patient wait times for Diagnostic Imaging (DI) tests, including MRI.

Ironically, as the government attempts to reduce wait times by allowing other provider professions, such as Nurse Practitioners and Physiotherapists to order MRI procedures and other DI tests, the number of MRI Technologists will not be there to meet the demands.

Post-graduate MRI courses, although valuable, still 'rob Peter to pay Paul' as MRTs in particular, leave their primary Discipline to train and later work in MRI. This leaves a gap in that primary Discipline.

MRI education and training is a distinct Discipline in Medical Radiation Technology; and like the other Disciplines, is a complex, sophisticated, and demanding professional practice area.

The OAMRT, based on the health-care system environment and its challenges, sees the need for a direct entry MRI education and training program as a primary career choice for high school, mature students, and others.

**IMPORTANT
CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Association suggests that the following are important considerations:

- A direct entry MRI Program be a stream in a 'radiation sciences' Degree Program;
- That post graduate entry to MRI education and training continue to exist until such time as the direct entry programs are providing the supply and demand needs for MRI Technologists.