

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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ISSUED BY: Board of Directors

CATEGORY: PRACTICE

SUBJECT: PERFORMING CLINICAL BREAST EXAMINATION

**POSITION:
STATEMENT:**

It is the position of the Association that Medical Radiation Technologists (MRTs) who have the appropriate knowledge, skills and judgement can perform Clinical Breast Examination (CBE).

It is further the position of the Association that those MRTs who are qualified Clinical Breast Examiners are qualified to instruct the patient on Breast Self-Examination (BSE).

RATIONALE:

MRTs who perform mammography are in a position to conduct CBE having the patient care skills and knowledge about breast cancer, anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, image assessment, and patient counselling.

DISCUSSION:

It is the MRT (R) who, by virtue of attaining the National Association's Certificate on Breast Imaging (CBI), or a similar equally viable qualification, is the most qualified health care professional to carry out a breast examination.

By performing the Clinical Breast Examination service for the patient, as well as completing the Mammography examination, the MRT (R) is able to provide the patient a complete breast analysis with the personal one-on-one care for this imperative, very personal procedure.

Breast Imaging Technologists in particular in performing CBE could relieve other health-care professionals to provide service in other health care areas where their particular expertise may be required due to under servicing.

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IMPORTANT

CONSIDERATIONS: It is important that one person is involved in the CBE process in terms of patient care. This would result in:

1. Same person performing all sensitive related procedures
2. Less time consumed when examined by one person
3. Cost savings
4. Allows more time by the MRT with the patient
5. Consistency with one (1) person doing the total exam

MRTs would be required through the continuing education and competency routes, to maintain their competency once having completed the approved CBE Course. Evidence of such competency would be validated through the appropriate practice Quality Assurance (QA) Program or other appropriate tools.