



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

DOCUMENT NO: POSN 02-03-21

DATE EFFECTIVE: 22 Oct 2005

CROSS REFERENCE: A. May 2005 Bods Mtg
B. Oct 2005 BoDs Mtg

ISSUED BY: Board of Directors

CATEGORY: PRACTICE

SUBJECT: WHO SHOULD BE THE PICTURE ARCHIVAL
COMMUNICATIONS (PACs) ADMINISTRATORS

POSITION: It is the Position of the Association that those responsible for the administration, logistics and operation of PACs systems in Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Therapy facilities should be a Medical Radiation Technologist (MRT).

RATIONALE: Although arguments have been made that IT personnel should be the PACs administrator/manager, experience in Canada and the USA, in particular, reveals that the background and competencies the MRT has is a major asset in successful PACs administrators, MRTs understand the systems and processes within their working domain in much more depth than an IT or computer specialist. Further, the MRT has comprehensive knowledge of the equipment that produces images which is an advantage over the non-MRT individual. Research has shown that IT personnel lack the understanding of clinical systems whereas the MRT has a comprehensive grasp of them as well as the needs of radiologists and oncologists.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS: The MRT must have the competencies to be a PACs Administrator or Manager. Before taking this post the MRT should have had the necessary formal training or have as part of the hiring contract an agreement of the employer to provide comprehensive training such as that recommended by the Society of Computer Applications in Radiology (SCAR).

The MRT must expect to be a working member of a team including IT, IS and other personnel to be successful so the mission-critical nature of PACS/RIS is successful with the entire electronic information chain in terms of integration.