



College of
Medical Radiation
Technologists of
Ontario

Ordre des
technologues en
radiation médicale
de l'Ontario

Guidelines for determining whether MRTs require professional liability insurance

Introduction

A member of the CMRTO engaging in the practice of medical radiation technology must hold, or otherwise be covered by, professional liability insurance (PLI) in accordance with the requirements of the CMRTO by-laws. These guidelines outline the factors to consider when determining if you are practising the profession of medical radiation technology and therefore are required to have and maintain PLI.¹

It is important to note that practising the profession of medical radiation technology is not the same as being employed as a medical radiation technologist (MRT). Even if you do not apply ionizing radiation to patients, are not involved directly in patient services, or volunteer as an MRT, you may still be engaging in the practice of medical radiation technology.

Effective March 31, 2014, if you are a member of the CMRTO practising the profession, you must carry professional liability insurance or protection against professional liability in accordance with the requirements set out in the by-laws of the CMRTO.²

If you are not considered to be practising the profession of medical radiation technology³ but are registered with the CMRTO, you are required to participate in the CMRTO Quality Assurance program.⁴

¹ These guidelines are designed to assist CMRTO members in determining whether they are practising the profession of medical radiation technology and therefore are required to have and maintain professional liability insurance in accordance with the CMRTO by-laws. These guidelines are not themselves standards of practice. However, they may be used by the CMRTO to assist in determining whether a member of the CMRTO has complied with the requirements set out in the CMRTO by-laws in a particular case. In the event of a conflict between these guidelines and the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the *Medical Radiation Technology Act*, the regulations made under those Acts and the by-laws of the CMRTO (such Acts, regulations and by-laws together referred to as the 'legislation'), the legislation prevails over the guidelines.

² By-law No. 43, as amended, sets out the requirements related to PLI. See also the CMRTO publication "What you must know about.... professional liability insurance"

³ If you are practising medical radiation technology outside Ontario, you may wish to consider resigning from the CMRTO. See the CMRTO publication "What you must know about....registration" for more information

⁴ See the CMRTO publication "CMRTO Quality Assurance Program for Medical Radiation Technologists" for more information on these requirements

Am I practising medical radiation technology?

Complete this checklist to determine if you are practising the profession of medical radiation technology. Check all of the boxes that apply to your current role.

STEP 1:

Check if any statement regarding the profession of medical radiation technology applies to your current role.

Scope of practice

The practice of medical radiation technology is the use of ionizing radiation, electromagnetism and other prescribed forms of energy for the purposes of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, the evaluation of images and data relating to the procedures and the assessment of an individual before, during and after the procedures.

- I apply the knowledge, skills and judgement of a medical radiation technologist
- I support others who apply the knowledge, skills and judgement of a medical radiation technologist
- I interact with others who expect that I have and use the knowledge, skills and judgement of a medical radiation technologist

Total boxes checked: _____

STEP 2:

Examine your current role against the eight Practice Standards set out in the CMRTO's standards of practice. Check all of the boxes that apply to your current role.

1. Legislation, Standards and Ethics

MRTs must understand, and adhere to, the legislation governing the practice of the profession, the Standards of Practice set by the CMRTO, the Code of Ethics and the by-laws of the CMRTO.

- I apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard
- I support others who apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard

2. Equipment and materials

MRTs must have the knowledge, skills and judgement to select the appropriate equipment and materials for procedures ordered by a physician or other authorized health professional, to make determinations as to the quality, serviceability and operability of the equipment and materials, and to take any corrective actions required to meet standards set by legislation, facility policies and manufacturers' guidelines. MRTs must be skilled in making safe, efficient and effective use of resources to produce the desired examination information or deliver safe, effective treatment.

- I apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard
- I support others who apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard

3. Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures

MRTs must be able to create images and data that are sufficiently accurate and clear for the diagnostic or therapeutic procedures that are ordered by a physician or other authorized health professional, while, in the case of procedures that use ionizing radiation, using only the minimum amount of radiation necessary during the course of the procedure. MRTs must be proficient in evaluating the images, data and tests relating to the procedures to ensure that the images, data and tests are satisfactory.

MRTs must be able to administer ionizing radiation, radiopharmaceuticals and electromagnetism accurately and in accordance with the order of the physician or other authorized health professional for the diagnostic or therapeutic procedure and the applicable legislation. MRTs must not apply or administer ionizing radiation or radiopharmaceuticals unless the conditions under the applicable legislation (including without limitation, the *Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act* and its regulations and the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, its regulations and licences issued thereunder) have been met.

Under the *Medical Radiation Technology Act*, MRTs are authorized to perform five controlled acts ("authorized acts") as required in the course of engaging in the practice of the profession. They must not perform the authorized acts or any exempted controlled act unless the conditions under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the *Medical Radiation Technology Act* and their respective regulations, and the Standards of Practice have been met.

- I apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard
- I support others who apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard

4. Safe Practice

MRTs must have and maintain the knowledge, skills and judgement to practise safely by adhering to all relevant provincial and federal legislation and guidelines, departmental protocols and policies and manufacturers' directions pertaining to health and safety. In the event of any unexpected problems or emergencies, MRTs must be competent and prepared to handle or to assist in the management of the situation.

- I apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard
- I support others who apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard

5. Relationship with Patients

MRTs must maintain clear and professional boundaries in relationships with patients and treat all patients with dignity and respect. MRTs must have the knowledge, skills and judgement to avoid placing patients at unnecessary risk of harm, pain or distress. MRTs must be able to provide appropriate responses to patient inquiries about procedures and related issues, and accept the patient's autonomy and the right of the patient or the patient's substitute decision maker to consent to or refuse service. MRTs must understand how and act to protect the confidentiality of all professionally acquired information about patients and the privacy of patients with respect to that information, while facilitating the effective delivery of health care.

- I apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard
- I support others who apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard

6. Professional Relationships

MRTs must be able to practise effectively within interprofessional care teams to achieve the best possible outcomes for the patient. MRTs are responsible for communicating about and coordinating care provision with other members of the team, and must be able to take the appropriate action to address gaps and differences in judgement about care provision.

MRTs may accept the delegation of controlled acts under the *Regulated Health Professions Act* not authorized to MRTs under the *Medical Radiation Technology Act*, provided they comply with the *Regulated Health Professions Act* and the Standards of Practice. MRTs cannot delegate to other individuals controlled acts authorized to MRTs under the *Medical Radiation Technology Act*.

- I apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard
- I support others who apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard

7. Records and Reporting

MRTs must be proficient in creating records, charts, incident and other reports that attest to the diagnostic, treatment, quality assurance, workplace and patient safety procedures that have been carried out. MRTs must have the knowledge, skills and judgement to record information that will adequately identify the subjects of all the images and data they create and treatments they administer. MRTs must produce records and reports that are accurate, complete, legible and timely.

- I apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard
- I support others who apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard

8. Continuing Competence

MRTs must have, maintain and apply the necessary knowledge, skills and judgement to ensure safe, effective and ethical outcomes for the patient. MRTs must maintain competence in their current area of practice and must refrain from acting if not competent. MRTs must obtain and maintain the necessary knowledge, skills and judgement to respond to changes in practice environments, advances in technology and other emerging issues. MRTs must participate in the College's Quality Assurance Program as part of maintaining and improving their competence.

- I apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard
- I support others who apply the knowledge, skills and judgement that relate to this Practice Standard

Total boxes checked: _____

STEP 3:

Examine your role as it relates to the practice setting and role of MRTs. Check if you are practising in one or more of these settings or providing one or more of these services:

- a hospital, cancer centre, independent health facility (clinic) or other health service organization, or providing mobile medical radiation technology services
- a long-term care facility, nursing home, home for the aged, or retirement home
- physician's office, surgeon's office, chiropractor's office, dentist's office, or chiropodist's office
- health care education, medical radiation technology education program or research organization
- medical radiation technology organization (association, regulatory body)

Total boxes checked: _____

Add up all the boxes you checked in each step:

Total boxes checked in: Step 1: _____ Step 2: _____ Step 3: _____

I have checked one or more boxes in each step:

- YES:**
You are practising the profession of medical radiation technology and, effective March 31, 2014, must carry professional liability insurance in accordance with the CMRTO's by-laws.
- NO:**
You are not practising the profession of medical radiation technology. However, if you are registered with the CMRTO, you are required to participate in the CMRTO Quality Assurance Program.

Note: These guidelines have been adapted from the College of Nurses of Ontario's fact sheet 'Am I Practising Nursing?' The CMRTO acknowledges and thanks the College of Nurses of Ontario for the use of its materials.



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