

A decorative graphic consisting of a thick, grey diagonal line that starts from the top left and extends towards the bottom right. A large, semi-transparent grey sphere is positioned where the line changes direction, appearing to be attached to it.

The Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy

Radiologist Assistant Practice Standards

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Preface to Practice Standards

A profession's practice standards serve as a guide for appropriate practice. The practice standards define the practice and establish general criteria to determine compliance. Practice standards are authoritative statements established by the profession for judging the quality of practice, service and education provided by individuals who practice in medical imaging and radiation therapy.

Practice standards can be used by individual facilities to develop job descriptions and practice parameters. Those outside the imaging, therapeutic and radiation science community can use the standards as an overview of the role and responsibilities of the individual as defined by the profession.

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

Format

The Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy are divided into six sections: introduction, scope of practice, clinical performance, quality performance, professional performance and advisory opinion statements.

Introduction. The introduction provides definitions for the practice and the education and certification for individuals in addition to an overview of the specific practice.

Scope of Practice. The scope of practice delineates the parameters of the specific practice.

Clinical Performance Standards. The clinical performance standards define the activities of the individual in the care of patients and delivery of diagnostic or therapeutic procedures. The section incorporates patient assessment and management with procedural analysis, performance and evaluation.

Quality Performance Standards. The quality performance standards define the activities of the individual in the technical areas of performance including equipment and material assessment, safety standards and total quality management.

Professional Performance Standards. The professional performance standards define the activities of the individual in the areas of education, interpersonal relationships, self-assessment and ethical behavior.

Advisory Opinion Statements. The advisory opinions are interpretations of the standards intended for clarification and guidance for specific practice issues.

Each performance standards section is subdivided into individual standards. The standards are numbered and followed by a term or set of terms that identify the standards, such as “assessment” or “analysis/determination.” The next statement is the expected performance of the individual when performing the procedure or treatment. A rationale statement follows and explains why an individual should adhere to the particular standard of performance.

Criteria. Criteria are used in evaluating an individual’s performance. Each set is divided into two parts: the general criteria and the specific criteria. Both criteria should be used when evaluating performance.

General Criteria. General criteria are written in a style that applies to imaging and radiation science individuals. These criteria are the same in all of the practice standards, with the exception of limited x-ray machine operators, and should be used for the appropriate area of practice.

Specific Criteria. Specific criteria meet the needs of the individuals in the various areas of professional performance. While many areas of performance within imaging and radiation sciences are similar, others are not. The specific criteria are drafted with these differences in mind.

Introduction to Radiologist Assistant Practice Standards

Definition

A radiologist assistant is an advanced-practice radiographer who practices under the supervision of a radiologist and enhances patient care in radiology services. As a member of the radiologist-directed team, the radiologist assistant exercises independent professional judgment in the performance of patient assessment, patient management and procedures in medical imaging and interventional radiology.

Education and Certification

The radiologist assistant is a health care professional prepared to practice in the field of medical imaging as a mid-level provider, with a minimum of five years academic preparation, clinical preceptorship and clinical experience. Radiologist assistants are radiographers who have completed didactic and clinical education in a radiologist assistant program recognized by a mechanism acceptable to the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. The individual must have earned a baccalaureate degree, post-baccalaureate certificate or graduate degree from an academic program encompassing a nationally recognized radiologist assistant curriculum that includes a radiologist-directed clinical preceptorship. Advisory committees of radiologist assistant programs should include radiologist representation.

Academic curriculum and clinical preceptorship prepares the graduate to:

- A. Assess, monitor and manage patient physiologic and psychologic status.
- B. Perform invasive and noninvasive imaging procedures as delegated by the radiologist who is licensed to practice and has privileges for the procedure being performed by the radiologist assistant.
- C. Obtain images necessary for diagnosis and provide initial observations to the delegating radiologist.
- D. Emphasize patient safety and verify procedure appropriateness by analyzing and incorporating evidenced-based practices for optimal patient care.
- E. Advocate for patient and personnel radiation safety by employing the ALARA principle to minimize patient and occupational radiation dose.
- F. Participate in quality improvement activities within the radiology practice.
- G. Assist with data collection and review for clinical trials or other research.

Upon completion of a radiologist assistant program recognized by the ARRT, individuals may apply to take the ARRT national certification examination. Those who successfully complete the certification examination may practice as a registered radiologist assistant (R.R.A.) and identify themselves as such. In accordance with ARRT protocol, the R.R.A. may then add these credentials following his or her name, e.g., Jack Smith, R.R.A., R.T.(R).

To maintain certification, the R.R.A. must complete 50 continuing education credits per biennium, as defined by the ARRT, to sustain expertise and awareness of changes and advances in practice.

Overview

An interdisciplinary team of radiologists, radiologist assistants, radiographers and other support staff plays a critical role in the delivery of health services as new modalities emerge and the need for imaging procedures increases. A comprehensive procedure list for the radiologist assistant is impractical because clinical activities vary by practice needs and expertise of the radiologist assistant. As radiologist assistants gain more experience, knowledge and clinical competence, the clinical activities for the radiologist assistant may evolve. The clinical activities are delegated by the supervising radiologist in accordance with state statute or regulations and lawful institutional policies.

State statute, regulation or lawful community custom may dictate practice parameters. *Wherever there is a conflict between these standards and state or local statutes or regulations, the state or local statutes or regulations supersede these standards.* A radiologist assistant should, within the boundaries of all applicable legal requirements and restrictions, exercise individual thought, judgment and discretion in the performance of the procedure. *In addition, because a radiologist assistant holds radiographer credentials, specific criteria for radiographers are incorporated into these standards by reference.* Both the Radiologist Assistant and Radiography sections of the Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy should be consulted when seeking practice information for the radiologist assistant practice.

Radiologist Assistant Scope of Practice

Performance of clinical activities by the radiologist assistant is defined by educational preparation, documented clinical competence with radiologist supervision and radiologist delegation in accordance with state laws, regulations and lawful institutional policy.

Preprocedure responsibilities include, but are not limited to, completing patient history and physical, determining procedure appropriateness and participating in informed patient consent. The radiologist assistant reviews variances identified through preprocedural evaluation that may influence the expected outcome with the delegating radiologist prior to the procedure.

The radiologist assistant performs or assists the radiologist with noninvasive and invasive radiology procedures using image guidance as appropriate. The radiologist assistant participates in the preparation, administration and documentation of medications. The radiologist assistant assesses, monitors and manages patient status, including patients under moderate sedation.

Postprocedural responsibilities include, but are not limited to, evaluating images for completeness and diagnostic quality, reporting initial observations to the delegating radiologist, providing follow-up patient evaluation and communicating the radiologist's report to the appropriate health care providers. The radiologist assistant does not provide an image interpretation as defined by the American College of Radiology.

Radiologist assistants act as liaisons between patients, radiographers, radiologists and other members of the health care team. Radiologist assistants remain sensitive to the physical, cultural and emotional needs of patients through good communication, comprehensive patient assessment, continuous patient monitoring and advanced patient care skills. Radiologist assistants use independent, professional, ethical judgment and critical thinking to safely perform imaging procedures. Radiologist assistants commit to continued professional development to enhance patient care, public education, knowledge and technical competence.

Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard One – Assessment

The radiologist assistant collects pertinent data about the patient and the procedure.

Rationale

Information about the patient's health status is essential in providing appropriate imaging and therapeutic services.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Gathers relevant information from the patient, medical record, significant others and health care providers.
2. Reconfirms patient identification and verifies the procedure requested or prescribed.
3. Reviews the patient's medical record to verify the appropriateness of a specific examination or procedure.
4. Verifies the patient's pregnancy status.
5. Assesses factors that may contraindicate the procedure, such as medications, patient history, insufficient patient preparation or artifacts.
6. Recognizes signs and symptoms of an emergency.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Performs and documents a radiology-focused physical examination, an analysis of data (e.g., signs and symptoms, laboratory values, vital signs, and significant abnormalities) and reports findings to the delegating radiologist.
2. Observes and assesses a patient who has received moderate sedation.
3. Assesses the patient's level of anxiety and pain and informs the delegating radiologist.
4. Interviews patient to obtain, verify and update medical history.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Two – Analysis/Determination

The radiologist assistant analyzes the information obtained during the assessment phase and develops an action plan for completing the procedure.

Rationale

Determining the most appropriate action plan enhances patient safety and comfort, optimizes diagnostic and therapeutic quality and improves efficiency.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Selects the most appropriate and efficient action plan after reviewing all pertinent data and assessing the patient's abilities and condition.
2. Employs professional judgment to adapt imaging and therapeutic procedures to improve diagnostic quality and therapeutic outcome.
3. Consults appropriate medical personnel to determine a modified action plan.
4. Determines the need for and selects supplies, accessory equipment, shielding and immobilization devices.
5. Determines the course of action for an emergency or problem situation.
6. Determines that all procedural requirements are in place to achieve a quality diagnostic or therapeutic procedure.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Determines patient compliance, if needed, with pre-examination preparation instructions (e.g., diet, medications).
2. Reviews the patient's medical record and the licensed independent practitioner's request to determine optimal imaging procedure for clinical indications.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Three – Patient Education

The radiologist assistant provides information about the procedure and related health issues according to protocol.

Rationale

Communication and education are necessary to establish a positive relationship.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Verifies that the patient has consented to the procedure and fully understands its risks, benefits, alternatives and follow-up. The radiologist assistant verifies that written or informed consent has been obtained.
2. Provides accurate explanations and instructions at an appropriate time and at a level the patients and their care providers can understand. Addresses patient questions and concerns regarding the procedure.
3. Refers questions about diagnosis, treatment or prognosis to a licensed independent practitioner.
4. Provides related patient education.
5. Explains precautions regarding administration of medications.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Explains procedure to the patient or significant others, including a description of risks, benefits, alternatives and follow-up.
2. Provides prescribed postcare instructions as ordered by the delegating radiologist.
3. Obtains informed consent.
4. Provides information regarding risks and benefits of radiation.
5. Refers questions about diagnosis, treatment or prognosis to the delegating radiologist.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Four – Performance

The radiologist assistant performs the action plan.

Rationale

Quality patient services are provided through the safe and accurate performance of a deliberate plan of action.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Performs procedural timeout.
2. Implements an action plan.
3. Explains each step of the action plan to the patient as it occurs and elicits the cooperation of the patient.
4. Uses an integrated team approach.
5. Modifies the action plan according to changes in the clinical situation.
6. Administers first aid or provides life support.
7. Utilizes accessory equipment.
8. Assesses and monitors the patient's physical, emotional and mental status.
9. Applies principles of sterile technique.
10. Positions patient for anatomic area of interest, respecting patient ability and comfort.
11. Immobilizes patient for procedure.
12. Monitors the patient for reactions to medications.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Administers moderate sedation and observes and assesses the patient who has received

moderate sedation.

2. Recognizes and responds to medical emergencies, activates emergency response systems and provides advanced life support intervention.
3. Performs invasive and noninvasive procedures as delegated by the radiologist.
4. Administers medications as approved by the delegating radiologist.
5. Monitors patient's physical condition during the procedure and responds to changes in patient vital signs, hemodynamics and level of consciousness.
6. Collects and documents tissue samples.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Five – Evaluation

The radiologist assistant determines whether the goals of the action plan have been achieved.

Rationale

Careful examination of the procedure is important to determine that expected outcomes have been met.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Evaluates the patient and the procedure to identify variances that may affect the expected outcome.
2. Completes the evaluation process in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.
3. Measures the procedure against established policies, protocols and benchmarks.
4. Identifies exceptions to the expected outcome.
5. Develops a revised action plan to achieve the intended outcome.
6. Communicates revised action plan to appropriate team members.

Specific Criteria

None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Six – Implementation

The radiologist assistant implements the revised action plan.

Rationale

It may be necessary to make changes to the action plan to achieve the expected outcome.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Bases the revised plan on the patient's condition and the most appropriate means of achieving the expected outcome.
2. Takes action based on patient and procedural variances.
3. Measures and evaluates the results of the revised action plan.
4. Notifies appropriate health care provider when immediate clinical response is necessary based on procedural findings and patient condition.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Communicates rationale for revisions to the radiologist.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Seven – Outcomes Measurement

The radiologist assistant reviews and evaluates the outcome of the procedure.

Rationale

To evaluate the quality of care, the radiologist assistant compares the actual outcome with the expected outcome.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Reviews all diagnostic or therapeutic data for completeness and accuracy.
2. Uses evidenced-based practice to determine whether the actual outcome is within established criteria.
3. Evaluates the process and recognizes opportunities for future changes.
4. Assesses the patient's physical, emotional and mental status prior to discharge.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Evaluates images for completeness and diagnostic quality and recommends additional images.
2. Reports initial observations to the delegating radiologist.
3. Performs follow-up patient evaluation and communicates findings to the delegating radiologist.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Eight – Documentation

The radiologist assistant documents information about patient care, the procedure and the final outcome.

Rationale

Clear and precise documentation is essential for continuity of care, accuracy of care and quality assurance.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Documents diagnostic, treatment and patient data in the medical record in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.
2. Documents exceptions from the established criteria or procedures.
3. Provides pertinent information to authorized individual(s) involved in the patient's care.
4. Records information used for billing and coding procedures.
5. Archives images or data.
6. Verifies patient consent is documented.
7. Documents procedural timeout.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Provides patient discharge, procedure and post-care instructions summary for review and co-signature by the delegating radiologist.
2. Documents use of moderate sedation.
3. Reports the initial observations from the examination to the delegating radiologist.
4. Communicates the delegating radiologist's report to the appropriate health care provider consistent with the American College of Radiology Practice Guidelines for Communication of Diagnostic Imaging Findings.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard One – Assessment

The radiologist assistant collects pertinent information regarding equipment, procedures and the work environment.

Rationale

The planning and provision of safe and effective medical services relies on the collection of pertinent information about equipment, procedures and the work environment.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Determines that services are performed in a safe environment, minimizing potential hazards, in accordance with established guidelines.
2. Confirms that equipment performance, maintenance and operation comply with manufacturer's specifications.
3. Verifies that protocol and procedure manuals include recommended criteria and are reviewed and revised.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Participates in radiation protection, patient safety, risk management and quality management activities.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Two – Analysis/Determination

The radiologist assistant analyzes information collected during the assessment phase to determine the need for changes to equipment, procedures or the work environment.

Rationale

Determination of acceptable performance is necessary to provide safe and effective services.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Assesses services, procedures and environment to meet or exceed established guidelines and adjusts the action plan.
2. Monitors equipment to meet or exceed established standards and adjusts the action plan.
3. Assesses and maintains the integrity of medical supplies such as a lot/expiration, sterility, etc.

Specific Criteria

None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The radiologist assistant informs the patient, public and other health care providers about procedures, equipment and facilities.

Rationale

Open communication promotes safe practices.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Elicits confidence and cooperation from the patient, the public and other health care providers by providing timely communication and effective instruction.
2. Presents explanations and instructions at the learner's level of understanding.
3. Educates the patient, public and other health care providers about procedures along with the biological effects of radiation, sound wave or magnetic field and protection.
4. Provides information to patients, health care providers, students and the public concerning the role and responsibilities of individuals in the profession.

Specific Criteria

None added

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Four – Performance

The radiologist assistant performs quality assurance activities.

Rationale

Quality assurance activities provide valid and reliable information regarding the performance of equipment, materials and processes.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Maintains current information on equipment, materials and processes.
2. Performs ongoing quality assurance activities.
3. Performs quality control testing of equipment.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Participates in quality improvement activities within the radiology practice (e.g., quality of care, patient flow, reject-repeat analysis, patient satisfaction).
2. Provides a safe environment for patients and staff.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Five – Evaluation

The radiologist assistant evaluates quality assurance results and establishes an appropriate action plan.

Rationale

Equipment, materials and processes depend on ongoing quality assurance activities that evaluate performance based on established guidelines.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Validates quality assurance testing conditions and results.
2. Evaluates quality assurance results.
3. Formulates an action plan.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Evaluates radiation safety, patient safety, risk management and quality management activities.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Six – Implementation

The radiologist assistant implements the quality assurance action plan for equipment, materials and processes.

Rationale

Implementation of a quality assurance action plan promotes safe and effective services.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Obtains assistance to support the quality assurance action plan.
2. Implements the quality assurance action plan.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Implements radiation safety, patient safety, risk management and quality management decisions.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Seven – Outcomes Measurement

The radiologist assistant assesses the outcome of the quality management action plan for equipment, materials and processes.

Rationale

Outcomes assessment is an integral part of the ongoing quality management action plan to enhance diagnostic and therapeutic services.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Reviews the implementation process for accuracy and validity.
2. Determines that actual outcomes are within established criteria.
3. Develops and implements a modified action plan.

Specific Criteria

None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Eight – Documentation

The radiologist assistant documents quality assurance activities and results.

Rationale

Documentation provides evidence of quality assurance activities designed to enhance safety.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Maintains documentation of quality assurance activities, procedures and results in accordance with established guidelines.
2. Documents in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.

Specific Criteria

None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard One – Quality

The radiologist assistant strives to provide optimal patient care.

Rationale

Patients expect and deserve optimal care during diagnosis and treatment.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Collaborates with others to elevate the quality of care.
2. Participates in ongoing quality assurance programs.
3. Adheres to standards, policies and established guidelines.
4. Applies professional judgment and discretion while performing diagnostic study or treatment.
5. Anticipates and responds to patient needs.
6. Respects cultural variations.

Specific Criteria

None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard Two – Self Assessment

The radiologist assistant evaluates personal performance.

Rationale

Self assessment is necessary for personal growth and professional development.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Assesses personal work ethics, behaviors and attitudes.
2. Evaluates performance and recognizes opportunities for educational growth and improvement.
3. Recognizes and applies personal and professional strengths.
4. Participates in professional societies and organizations.

Specific Criteria

None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The radiologist assistant acquires and maintains current knowledge in practice.

Rationale

Advancements in the profession require additional knowledge and skills through education.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Completes education related to practice.
2. Maintains credentials and certification related to practice.
3. Participates in continuing education to maintain and enhance competency and performance.
4. Shares knowledge and expertise with others.

Specific Criteria

None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard Four – Collaboration and Collegiality

The radiologist assistant promotes a positive and collaborative practice atmosphere with other members of the health care team.

Rationale

To provide quality patient care, all members of the health care team must communicate effectively and work together efficiently.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Shares knowledge and expertise with members of the health care team.
2. Develops collaborative partnerships to enhance quality and efficiency.
3. Promotes understanding of the profession.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Collaborates with others to promote continuity of patient care.
2. Promotes understanding of procedures through in-service for other health care providers.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard Five – Ethics

The radiologist assistant adheres to the profession's accepted ethical standards.

Rationale

Decisions made and actions taken on behalf of the patient are based on a sound ethical foundation.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Provides health care services with respect for the patient's dignity, age-specific needs and culture.
2. Acts as a patient advocate.
3. Takes responsibility for decisions made and actions taken.
4. Delivers patient care and service free from bias or discrimination.
5. Respects the patient's right to privacy and confidentiality.
6. Adheres to the established practice standards of the profession.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Secures all orders and prescriptions as required.
2. Determines accuracy in all patient data including coding, billing and medical records.
3. Communicates with radiologist prior to providing final diagnosis to other health care providers.
4. Performs procedures in accordance with lawful institutional credentialing restrictions.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard Six – Research and Innovation

The radiologist assistant participates in the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge and the advancement of the profession.

Rationale

Scholarly activities such as research, scientific investigation, presentation and publication advance the profession.

General Stipulation

The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards.

General Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Reads and evaluates research relevant to the profession.
2. Participates in data collection.
3. Investigates innovative methods for application in practice.
4. Shares information through publication, presentation and collaboration.
5. Adopts new best practices.
6. Pursues lifelong learning.

Specific Criteria

The radiologist assistant:

1. Collects data for clinical trials or other research.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.

Radiologist Assistant Advisory Opinion Statements

Guidance for the Communication of Clinical and Imaging Observations and Procedure Details by Radiologist Assistants to Supervising Radiologists.

Injecting Medication in Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter Lines or Ports with a Power Injector.

References

ARRT R.R.A. Entry Level Clinical Activities (ELCA) 2009

ARRT R.R.A. Continuing Education Requirements

ASRT Radiologist Assistant Curriculum