

MEDICAL RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY BOARD OF EXAMINERS

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Licensed Practitioners
Health Professionals

Re: Scope of Practice of Radiography and Fluoroscopy

It has been our experience that informed individuals generally try to obey the law. With that in mind the following information describes certain provisions of the Medical Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners (MRTBE) and the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency (ARRA) statutes and rules. It addresses the specific acts that may or may not be performed by individuals.

Only licensed practitioners or individuals licensed by the MRTBE, may administer ionizing radiation for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes. Physician assistants and nurse practitioners may **not** administer ionizing radiation on the authority of license of a licensed practitioner or as part of their practice acts.

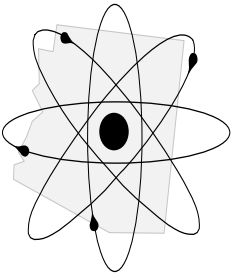
During the course of a radiographic procedure, unlicensed (Non MRTBE) individuals may **not** perform any of the following acts: *position patients or the x-ray tube, set exposure factors or initiate the exposure.* Some business managers and physicians are under the false impression it is legal for their employees to perform any portion of a radiographic or fluoroscopic procedure as long as it is at the direction of, or under the supervision of a licensed practitioner. It is NOT legal. The licensed practitioner, the x-ray machine registrant (if different from the practitioner) and any technologist or other health care worker may be cited and face disciplinary sanctions if any of the above acts occur and they are in any way involved.

The statute and rules of ARRA regulate the practice and supervision of radiography/fluoroscopy, by the X-ray machine registrant. Specifically, R12-1-603.B.1. 2. which states: *The registrant shall not permit any individual to engage in the practice of "healing arts radiography" using equipment under the registrant's control, unless the individual possesses a valid certificate issued by, or is exempt from, the Medical Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners, pursuant to A.R.S. 32-2801 et sec. The registrant shall maintain records documenting compliance with R12-1-603.B.1. for each individual using equipment under the registrant's control practicing "healing arts radiography".*

The ARRA rules define "healing arts radiography" as:

Includes any or all of the following acts:

Positioning the x-ray beam with respect to the patient
Anatomical positioning of the patient



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*Selecting exposure factors
Initiating the exposure*

Unless exempted, uncertified individuals may NOT perform any of the above tasks while providing assistance with a radiographic procedure, see R12-2-101.1.

Only licensed practitioners, (MD, DO, Chiropractor, Podiatrist, and Naturopath), are exempt and may perform the actions described above without certification from the MRTBE.

The scope of practice for radiologic technologists (CRT) versus practical technologists (CPTR) is considerably different. Radiologic technologists are not limited in the type of radiographic or fluoroscopic exams they may perform. Practical technologists are strictly limited to performing radiographic only examinations of the chest and extremities. The chest may only be x-rayed to visualize the heart and lungs. Extremities are defined as the shoulder girdle to the phalanges and the lower two thirds of the femur to the phalanges. Practical technologists are prohibited from performing any examination involving the use of contrast media or fluoroscopy.

There is some confusion on PET/CT scans to who can perform what. A certified nuclear medicine technologist can perform the PET and CT portion of the examination if they are combined and the patient is on the same table. A nuclear medicine technologist is not allowed to perform a solo, diagnostic CT scan. A radiologic technologist (CT tech) can only perform the CT portion of a combined PET/CT. They cannot perform the PET portion. Currently MRTBE does not have regulations in regards to CT technologists whom have passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) CT/PET examination.

Further details of scope of practice for radiological field technologists can be found on the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) web site. Go to asrt.org, professional resources, practice issues, practice standards and then chose the field you are interested in.

If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact MRTBE.

Sincerely,

Shanna Farish