

Nuclear medicine technology Scope of Practice - Position Statement

April 2021

Medical imaging and radiation therapy practice (MIRTP) is strongly influenced by changes in technology. As a result, practice standards and scopes of practice are constantly evolving. This means areas of emerging practice may not be expressly defined in the *Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals Act* (the “Act”). Due to these evolutions, a broader look at scope of practice must often be considered. Scopes of practice are informed by several sources of information, including legislation, practice standards, educational curriculum, competency profiles, and job descriptions.

The Board of the College recently completed an extensive review of the scope of practice for nuclear medicine technology – specifically, as it relates to PET radiopharmaceutical production and related quality control.

Based on its review, the College has determined that PET radiopharmaceutical production and related quality control is within the scope of practice of nuclear medicine technology. Accordingly, nuclear medicine technologists engaged in these activities must maintain an active license with the College. As the College’s mandate is the protection of the public, failure to maintain licensure with the College may result in disciplinary and/or civil action.

The College recognizes that within this area there may be overlapping scopes of practice, for example among nuclear medicine technologists, radio-pharmacists, and radiochemists. Therefore, other health professionals may be equally qualified to engage in PET radiopharmaceutical production and related quality control. Accordingly, where PET radiopharmaceutical production and related quality control falls within the scope of practice of another profession, the professional is exempt from having to register and license with NSCMIRTP. This exemption can be found at section 89(1)(c) of the *Act*.