

Central Intake Position Statement

The scope of practice of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals (MIRTPs) is established through provincial legislation, and regulated by the Nova Scotia College of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals (NSCMIRTP). Scope of practice provides the foundational framework upon which competencies, standards of practice, and professional expectations are developed. It also informs educational curricula, supports healthcare workforce planning, and guides staffing decisions within evolving models of care.

Legislated scope of practice is intentionally broad, allowing flexibility to respond to advancements in technology, changing patient needs, and emerging models of healthcare delivery. It is recognized that no single health profession holds a completely unique scope of practice; rather, professions share overlapping competencies. What distinguishes MIRTPs is not a single task or activity, but the integration of a comprehensive set of specialized competencies, knowledge, skills, judgment, and professional accountability.

As healthcare systems face increasing patient acuity, complexity of care, and expectations for professionals to work to their full scope, ongoing interpretation of the MIRTP scope of practice is essential. The NSCMIRTP continues to receive requests from registrants, employers, and other regulators seeking clarity on whether specific tasks or interventions fall within the MIRTP scope. These determinations can be complex, particularly when activities extend beyond entry-level practice yet remain consistent with the profession's evolving competencies.

Clarity and consistency in terminology are critical to these discussions. As defined in the NSCMIRTP Act:

- Competence is the ability to integrate and apply the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and judgment required to practice safely, ethically, and professionally within a designated role and setting, encompassing both entry-to-practice and ongoing competence.
- Individual scope of practice refers to the roles, functions, and accountabilities that an individual MIRTP is educated, competent, and authorized to perform.
- Scope of practice refers to the roles, functions, and accountabilities that registrants as a profession are educated in and authorized to perform.

MIRTPs, as regulated health professionals, are accountable for practicing in accordance with the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics established by NSCMIRTP. This includes engaging in leadership activities that support collaborative, patient-centered care and system improvement. MIRTPs contribute essential expertise in verifying and evaluating procedural requests to ensure appropriateness, completeness, and alignment with patient needs, while considering risks, benefits, and expected outcomes.

Through leadership in initiatives such as Diagnostic Imaging Central Intake, MIRTPs demonstrate their commitment to ensuring the right patient receives the right test at the right time and in the right location. This reflects the profession's responsibility to optimize access, enhance quality of care, and uphold its mandate to protect the public while adapting to the evolving healthcare landscape.