The Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy

Radiation Therapy Practice Standards

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 evaluating 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 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 minimum qualifications for the education and certification of 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 responsible for 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, such as 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 of 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 to evaluate 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 medical dosimetry 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 were drafted with these differences in mind.

Introduction to Radiation Therapy Practice Standards

Definition

The practice of radiation therapy is performed by health care professionals responsible for the administration of ionizing radiation for the purpose of treating diseases, primarily cancer.

The complex nature of cancer frequently requires the use of multiple treatment specialties. Radiation therapy is one such specialty. It requires an interdisciplinary team of radiation oncologists, radiation therapists, medical radiation physicists, medical dosimetrists and nurses. It is typically the radiation therapist who administers the radiation to the patient throughout the course of treatment.

Radiation therapy integrates scientific knowledge, technical competence and patient interaction skills to provide safe and accurate treatment with compassion. A radiation therapist recognizes patient conditions essential for the successful completion of simulation and treatment.

Radiation therapists must demonstrate an understanding of human anatomy, human physiology, pathology and medical terminology. In addition, comprehension of oncology, radiobiology, radiation physics, radiation oncology techniques, radiation safety and the psychosocial aspects of cancer are required. They must maintain a high degree of accuracy in positioning and treatment techniques. Radiation therapists must possess, use and maintain knowledge about radiation protection and safety. Radiation therapists assist the radiation oncologist to localize the treatment area, participate in treatment planning and deliver high doses of ionizing radiation as prescribed by the radiation oncologist.

Radiation therapists are the primary liaison between patients and other members of the radiation oncology team. They also provide a link to other health care providers, such as social workers and dietitians. Radiation therapists must remain sensitive to the needs of the patient through good communication, patient assessment, patient monitoring, and patient care skills. Radiation therapy often involves daily treatments extending over several weeks using highly sophisticated equipment. It requires thorough initial planning as well as constant patient care and monitoring. As members of the health care team, radiation therapists participate in quality improvement processes and continually assess their professional performance.

Radiation therapists think critically and use independent, professional and ethical judgments in all aspects of their work. They engage in continuing education, to include their area of practice, to enhance patient care, radiation safety, public education, knowledge and technical competence.

Education and Certification

Only medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals who have completed the appropriate education and obtained certification(s) as outlined in these standards should perform radiation therapy procedures.

Radiation therapists prepare for their roles on the interdisciplinary team by successfully completing a program in radiation therapy that is programmatically accredited or part of an institution that is regionally accredited and by attaining appropriate primary certification from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

Medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals performing multiple modality hybrid imaging should be registered by certification agencies recognized by the ASRT and be educationally prepared and clinically competent in the specific modality(ies) they are responsible to perform. Medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals performing diagnostic procedures in more than one imaging modality will adhere to the individual practice standard for each.

To maintain ARRT certification, radiation therapists must complete appropriate continuing education requirements to sustain a level of expertise and awareness of changes and advances in practice.

Overview

An interdisciplinary team of radiation oncologists, radiation therapists, medical dosimetrists, medical physicists and other support staff plays a critical role in the delivery of health services as new modalities emerge and the need for radiation therapy treatment procedures evolve. A comprehensive procedure list for the radiation therapist is impractical because clinical activities vary by the practice needs and expertise of the radiation therapist. As radiation therapists gain more experience, knowledge and clinical competence, the clinical activities for the radiation therapist may evolve.

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 radiation therapist should, within the boundaries of all applicable legal requirements and restrictions, exercise individual thought, judgment and discretion in the performance of the procedure.

Radiation Therapist Scope of Practice

The scope of practice of the medical imaging and radiation therapy professional includes:

- Providing optimal patient care.
- Receiving, relaying and documenting verbal, written and electronic orders in the patient's medical record.
- Corroborating a patient's clinical history with procedure and ensuring information is documented and available for use by a licensed practitioner.
- Verifying informed consent for applicable procedures.
- Assuming responsibility for patient needs during procedures.
- Preparing patients for procedures.
- Applying principles of ALARA to minimize exposure to patient, self and others.
- Performing venipuncture as prescribed by a licensed practitioner.
- Starting, maintaining and/or removing intravenous access as prescribed by a licensed practitioner.
- Identifying, preparing and/or administering medications as prescribed by a licensed practitioner.
- Evaluating images for technical quality and ensuring proper identification is recorded.
- Identifying and responding to emergency situations.
- Providing education.
- Educating and monitoring students and other health care providers.
- Performing ongoing quality assurance activities.
- Applying the principles of patient safety during all aspects of patient care.

The scope of practice of the radiation therapist also includes:

1. Delivering radiation therapy treatments as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.
2. Performing simulation, treatment planning procedures and dosimetric calculations as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.

3. Using imaging technologies for the explicit purpose of simulation, treatment planning and treatment delivery as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.

4. Detecting and reporting significant changes in patients' conditions and determining when to withhold treatment until the radiation oncologist is consulted.

5. Monitoring doses to normal tissues within the irradiated volume to ensure tolerance levels are not exceeded.

6. Constructing/preparing immobilization, beam directional and beam modification devices.

7. Participating in brachytherapy procedures.

Radiation Therapy Clinical Performance Standards

Standard One – Assessment

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Obtains relevant information from all available resources and the release of information as needed.

2. Verifies patient identification and the procedure requested or prescribed.

3. Verifies that the patient has consented to the procedure.

4. Reviews all available patient medical record information to verify the appropriateness of the procedure requested or prescribed.

5. Verifies the patient's pregnancy status.

6. Assesses factors that may negatively affect the procedure, such as medications, patient history, insufficient patient preparation or artifact producing objects.

7. Recognizes signs and symptoms of an emergency.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Assesses the patient's risk for allergic reaction to medication prior to administration.

2. Assesses the patient's need for information and reassurance.

3. Monitors side effects and reactions to treatment.

4. Reviews treatment record prior to treatment or simulation.

5. Monitors doses to normal tissues.

6. Recognizes the patient's need for referral to other care providers such as a social worker, nurse or dietitian.

7. Monitors and assesses patients throughout the treatment course and follow-up visits.

8. Reviews treatment protocol criteria and assesses conditions affecting treatment delivery.

9. Identifies and/or removes objects that could interfere with prescribed treatment.

Radiation Therapy Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Two – Analysis/Determination

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

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 outcomes.

3. Consults appropriate medical personnel to determine a modified action plan.

4. Determines the need for and selects supplies, accessory equipment, shielding, positioning and immobilization devices.

5. Determines the course of action for an emergent situation.

6. Determines that all procedural requirements are in place to achieve a quality diagnostic or therapeutic procedure.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Participates in decisions about appropriate simulation techniques and treatment positions.

2. Reviews patient treatment records prior to each treatment for prescription or treatment procedure changes.

3. Reviews doses daily to ensure that treatment does not exceed prescribed dose, normal tissue tolerance or treatment protocol constraints.

4. Ensures the appropriate imaging technique is chosen for image guided radiation therapy procedures.

5. Reviews verification images prior to treatment.

6. Determines when to contact the radiation oncologist or licensed practitioner regarding patient side effects or questions.

7. Determines when to withhold treatment until a radiation oncologist is contacted.

8. Reviews patient treatment plan and prescription prior to initial treatment delivery.

Radiation Therapy Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Provides an accurate explanation and instructions at an appropriate time and at a level the patient and their care providers can understand. Addresses questions and concerns regarding the procedure.

2. Refers questions about diagnosis, treatment or prognosis to a licensed practitioner.

3. Provides patient education.

4. Explains effects and potential side effects of medications.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Provides information regarding risks and benefits of radiation.

2. Instructs patient in the maintenance of treatment markings.

3. Provides information and instruction on proper skin care, diet and self-care procedures.

4. Anticipates a patient's need for information and provides it throughout the treatment course.

Radiation Therapy Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Four – Performance

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Performs procedural timeout.
2. Implements an action plan.
3. Explains to the patient each step of the action plan 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. Uses 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 radiation therapist:

1. Fabricates individualized immobilization, custom blocks and other beam-modifying devices.

2. Assists the radiation oncologist in determining the optimum treatment field to cover the target volume.

3. Prepares and positions patient for simulation and treatment.

4. Achieves precision patient alignment using imaging and external markings.

5. Creates and manages simulation and verification images.

6. Obtains radiation oncologist's approval of simulation images prior to initiation of treatment.

7. Plans and delivers the treatment as directed and prescribed by the radiation oncologist.

8. Calculates monitor units and treatment times.

9. Performs clinically indicated pretreatment imaging.

10. Monitors the patient visually and aurally during treatment.

11. Prepares or assists in preparing brachytherapy sources and equipment.

12. Monitors the treatment console during treatment.

13. Uses knowledge of biological effects of ionizing radiation on tissue to minimize radiation dose to normal tissues.

Radiation Therapy Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Five – Evaluation

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Evaluates the patient and the procedure to identify variances that might 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 the revised action plan to appropriate team members.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Checks treatment calculations and/or treatment plan.

2. Verifies the accuracy of the patient setup prior to treatment delivery.

3. Compares verification images to simulation images using anatomical landmarks or fiducial markers.

4. Verifies treatment console readouts and settings prior to initiating treatment and upon termination of treatment.

5. Evaluates the patient daily for any side effects, reactions and therapeutic responses.

Radiation Therapy Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Six – Implementation

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

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 the appropriate health care provider when immediate clinical response is necessary, based on procedural findings and patient condition.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Reports deviations from the standard or planned treatment.

2. Establishes congruence between verification images and simulation images, digitally reconstructed radiographs and/or treatment volumes as defined by the radiation oncologist.

3. Implements treatment plan or treatment field changes as indicated by the radiation oncologist.

4. Adapts procedures to equipment limitations and patient needs.

5. Collaborates with radiation oncologists, medical physicists and medical dosimetrists to compensate for treatment inaccuracies.

Radiation Therapy Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Seven – Outcomes Measurement

The radiation therapist reviews and evaluates the outcome of the procedure.

Rationale
To evaluate the quality of care, the radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Reviews all diagnostic or therapeutic data for completeness and accuracy.

2. Uses evidence-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 radiation therapist:

1. Monitors patient status during procedures, throughout the treatment course and for follow-up care.

Radiation Therapy Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Eight – Documentation

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Documents diagnostic, treatment and patient data in the medical record in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.

2. Documents unintended outcomes or exceptions from the established criteria.

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 radiation therapist:

1. Documents radiation exposure parameters.

2. Maintains imaging and treatment records according to institutional policy.

Radiation Therapy Quality Performance Standards

Standard One – Assessment

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Determines that services are performed in a safe environment, minimizing potential hazards.

2. Confirms that equipment performance, maintenance and operation comply with the manufacturer's specifications.

3. Verifies that protocol and procedure manuals include recommended criteria and are reviewed and revised.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Inspects ancillary devices prior to use.

2. Monitors treatment unit operation during use.

3. Observes the environment for any potential radiation hazards.

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

5. Maintains restricted access to controlled areas.

Radiation Therapy Quality Performance Standards

Standard Two – Analysis/Determination

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Evaluates services, procedures and the environment to determine if they meet or exceed established guidelines, and revises the action plan.

2. Monitors equipment to meet or exceed established standards and revises the action plan.

3. Assesses and maintains the integrity of medical supplies.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Verifies the mathematical accuracy of the prescription and the daily treatment summary.

2. Reviews treatment record, calculations, and/or treatment plan for accuracy prior to treatment delivery.

Radiation Therapy Quality Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

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 and the associated biological effects.

4. Provides information to patients, health care providers, students and the public concerning the role and responsibilities of individuals in the profession.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Informs the patients, health care providers, students and the public about medical uses of radiation and corrects misconceptions.

2. Instructs other health care providers about radiation protection procedures.

3. Assists in the development and implementation of educational materials for patients, health care providers, students and the public.

Radiation Therapy Quality Performance Standards

Standard Four – Performance

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Maintains current information on equipment, materials and processes.

2. Performs ongoing quality assurance activities.

3. Performs quality control testing of equipment.

4. Participates in safety and risk management activities.

5. When appropriate, wears one or more personal radiation monitoring devices at the location indicated on the personal radiation monitoring device or as indicated by the radiation safety officer or designee.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Adheres to radiation safety rules and standards.

2. Makes the decision to discontinue patient treatment until equipment is operating properly.

3. Verifies that only the patient is in the treatment room prior to initiating treatment or any imaging procedures.

4. Demonstrates safe handling, storage and disposal of brachytherapy sources.

5. Performs quality assurance checks on simulator, treatment unit and appropriate equipment.

6. Consults with medical physicist and/or engineer in performing and documenting the quality assurance checks.

Radiation Therapy Quality Performance Standards

Standard Five – Evaluation

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Validates quality assurance testing conditions and results.

2. Evaluates quality assurance results.

3. Formulates an action plan.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Reviews verification images for quality and accuracy.

2. Performs treatment chart checks.

3. Reviews treatment discrepancies, determines causes and assists with the action plan.

Radiation Therapy Quality Performance Standards

Standard Six – Implementation

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

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

2. Implements the quality assurance action plan.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Formulates recommendations for process improvements to minimize treatment discrepancies.

Radiation Therapy Quality Performance Standards

Standard Seven – Outcomes Measurement

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Reviews the implementation process for accuracy and validity.

2. Determines that actual outcomes are within established criteria.

3. Develops and implements a revised action plan.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Reviews and evaluates quality assurance processes and tools periodically for effectiveness.

Radiation Therapy Quality Performance Standards

Standard Eight – Documentation

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Maintains documentation of quality assurance activities, procedures and results.

2. Documents in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Reports any treatment discrepancies to appropriate personnel.

Radiation Therapy Professional Performance Standards

Standard One – Quality

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

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 the diagnostic study or treatment.

5. Anticipates, considers and responds to the needs of a diverse patient population.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Advocates the need for a minimum of two credentialed radiation therapists to be present for any external beam patient treatment.

Radiation Therapy Professional Performance Standards

Standard Two – Self-Assessment

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

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.

Radiation Therapy Professional Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The radiation therapist acquires and maintains current knowledge in practice.

Rationale
Advancements in the profession and optimal patient care 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 radiation therapist:

1. Maintains credentials and certification related to practice.

2. Advocates for and participates in continuing education related to area of practice, to maintain and enhance clinical competency.

3. Advocates for and participates in vendor specific applications training to maintain clinical competency.

Specific Criteria
None added.

Radiation Therapy Professional Performance Standards

Standard Four – Collaboration and Collegiality

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Shares knowledge and expertise with others.

2. Develops and maintains collaborative partnerships to enhance quality and efficiency.

3. Promotes understanding of the profession.

Specific Criteria
The radiation therapist:

1. Informs others about radiation safety.

Radiation Therapy Professional Performance Standards

Standard Five – Ethics

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

1. Provides health care services with consideration for a diverse patient population.
2. Acts as a patient advocate.
3. Accepts accountability 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.
7. Adheres to the established ethical standards of recognized certifying agencies.

Specific Criteria
None added.

Radiation Therapy Professional Performance Standards

Standard Six – Research and Innovation

The radiation therapist 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 radiation therapist:

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 with colleagues through publication, presentation and collaboration.

5. Adopts new best practices.

6. Pursues lifelong learning.

Specific Criteria
None added.

Radiation Therapy Advisory Opinion Statements

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

Medication Administration by Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals.

Medication Administration Through Existing Vascular Access.

Placement of Personal Radiation Monitoring Devices.