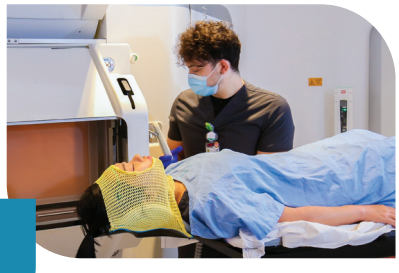
asrt
American Society of Radiologic Technologists

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists represents more than 155,000 medical imaging technologists and radiation therapists across the nation. The organization's main mission is to advance and elevate the medical imaging and radiation therapy profession and to enhance the quality and safety of patient care.



Who are radiation therapists?

The practice of radiation therapy is performed by health care professionals responsible for the administration of high doses of ionizing radiation for the purpose of treating diseases, primarily cancer. Radiation therapists acquire and analyze data in preparation for patient treatment, use various imaging technologies to localize the treatment area, participate in treatment planning and perform radiation therapy procedures as prescribed and supervised by a radiation oncologist. Radiation therapy often involves daily treatments extending over several weeks using highly sophisticated equipment. As a vital member of a physician-led team, a radiation therapist is the primary liaison between patients and other members of the radiation oncology team.

Education and training requirements

As part of obtaining a nationally recognized credential as a radiation therapist, an individual will meet the following educational requirements:

- Earn an associate degree from an accredited institution.
- Complete an approved educational program.
- Demonstrate competence in the clinical procedures as part of the educational program and pass a nationally recognized credentialing exam accredited through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or similar nationally recognized credentialing organization.

Visit asrt.org for more information

asrt Advocacy

What Is the Scope of Practice for Radiation Therapy?

The scope of practice delineates the parameters of practice and identifies the boundaries for practice. As radiation therapy professionals gain more experience, knowledge and clinical competence, clinical activities may evolve.

The scope of practice of radiation therapy professionals includes, but is not limited to:

- Constructing or preparing immobilization, beam-directional and beam-modification devices.
- Delivering radiation therapy treatments as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.
- Detecting and reporting significant changes in patients' conditions and determining when to withhold treatment until the radiation oncologist is consulted.
- Monitoring doses to normal tissues within the irradiated volume to ensure tolerance levels are not exceeded.
- Participating in brachytherapy procedures.
- Participating in superficial radiation therapy procedures as prescribed by a licensed practitioner.
- Performing simulation, localization, treatment planning procedures and dosimetric calculations as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.
- Using imaging technologies for the explicit purpose of simulation, treatment planning and treatment delivery as prescribed by a radiation oncologist.