The Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy

Radiologist Assistant 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 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 Radiologist Assistant Practice Standards

Definition

A radiologist assistant is an advanced-practice radiographer who practices under the supervision of a radiologist and enhances patient care in radiology services. As a member of the radiologist-directed team, the radiologist assistant exercises independent professional judgment in:

A. Assessing, monitoring and managing patient physiologic and psychologic status.
B. Performing invasive and noninvasive imaging procedures as delegated by the radiologist who is licensed to practice and has privileges for the procedure being performed by the radiologist assistant.
C. Obtaining images necessary for diagnosis and providing initial observations to the supervising radiologist.
D. Emphasizing patient safety and verifying procedure appropriateness by analyzing and incorporating evidenced-based practices for optimal patient care.
E. Advocating for patient and personnel radiation safety by employing the ALARA principle to minimize patient and occupational radiation dose.
F. Participating in quality improvement activities within the radiology practice.
G. Assisting with data collection and review for clinical trials or other research.

Education and Certification

Only radiographers who have completed the appropriate education and obtained certification(s) as outlined in these standards should perform radiologist assistant procedures.

Radiologist assistants prepare for their roles as mid-level providers in medical imaging by attaining primary certification as a radiographer from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, successfully completing a recognized radiologist assistant education program, and by attaining certification from the ARRT.

Those passing the registered radiologist assistant examination use the credentials R.R.A.

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 sustain a level of expertise and awareness of changes and advances in practice and to maintain certification, the R.R.A. must complete appropriate continuing education requirements, as defined by the ARRT.
Overview

An interdisciplinary team of radiologists, radiologist assistants, radiographers and other support staff plays a critical role in the delivery of health services as new modalities emerge and the need for imaging procedures increases. A comprehensive procedure list for the radiologist assistant is impractical because clinical activities vary by practice needs and expertise of the radiologist assistant. As radiologist assistants gain more experience, knowledge and clinical competence, the clinical activities for the radiologist assistant may evolve. The clinical activities are delegated by the supervising radiologist in accordance with state statute or regulations and lawful institutional policies.

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

In addition, because a radiologist assistant holds radiographer credentials, specific criteria for radiographers are incorporated into these standards by reference. Both the Radiologist Assistant and Radiography sections of the Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy should be consulted when seeking practice information for the radiologist assistant practice.
Radiologist Assistant Scope of Practice

Performance of clinical activities by the radiologist assistant is defined by educational preparation, documented clinical competence with radiologist supervision and radiologist delegation in accordance with state laws, regulations and lawful institutional policy.

Preprocedure responsibilities include, but are not limited to, completing patient history and physical, determining procedure appropriateness and participating in informed patient consent. The radiologist assistant reviews variances identified through preprocedural evaluation that may influence the expected outcome with the supervising radiologist prior to the procedure.

The radiologist assistant performs or assists the radiologist with noninvasive and invasive radiology procedures using image guidance as appropriate. The radiologist assistant participates in the preparation, administration and documentation of medications. The radiologist assistant assesses, monitors and manages patient status, including patients under minimal and moderate sedation.

Postprocedural responsibilities include, but are not limited to, evaluating images for completeness and diagnostic quality, reporting initial observations to the supervising radiologist, providing follow-up patient evaluation and communicating the radiologist’s report to the appropriate health care providers. The radiologist assistant does not provide an image interpretation as defined by the American College of Radiology.

Radiologist assistants act as liaisons between patients, radiographers, radiologists and other members of the health care team. Radiologist assistants remain sensitive to the physical, cultural and emotional needs of patients through good communication, comprehensive patient assessment, continuous patient monitoring and advanced patient care skills. Radiologist assistants use independent, professional, ethical judgment and critical thinking to safely perform imaging procedures. Radiologist assistants commit to continued professional development to enhance patient care, public education, knowledge and technical competence.

Radiologist assistants maintain their radiographer credentials; therefore, scopes of practice for radiographers are incorporated into these standards by reference. Both the Radiologist Assistant and Radiography sections of the Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy should be consulted when seeking practice information for the radiologist assistant practice.
Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard One – Assessment

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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 radiologist assistant:
1. Interviews patient to obtain, verify and update medical history.
2. Performs and documents a radiology-focused physical examination, an analysis of data (e.g., signs and symptoms, laboratory values, vital signs, and significant abnormalities) and reports findings to the supervising radiologist.
3. Observes and assesses a patient who has received minimal and moderate sedation.
4. Assesses the patient’s level of anxiety and pain and informs the supervising radiologist.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Two – Analysis/Determination

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:

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 radiologist assistant:

1. Determines patient compliance, if needed, with pre-examination preparation instructions.

2. Reviews the patient’s medical record and the licensed practitioner’s request to determine optimal imaging procedure for clinical indications.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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 radiologist assistant:
1. Explains procedure to the patient or significant others, including a description of risks, benefits, alternatives and follow-up.
2. Provides pre- and postcare instructions to the patient under the supervision of a radiologist.
3. Provides information regarding risks and benefits of radiation.
4. Refers questions about diagnosis, treatment or prognosis to the supervising radiologist.
5. Obtains informed consent.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Four – Performance

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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 radiologist assistant:

1. Administers minimal and moderate sedation and observes and assesses the patient who has received minimal and moderate sedation.

2. Recognizes and responds to medical emergencies, activates emergency response systems and provides advanced life support intervention.

3. Performs invasive and noninvasive procedures as delegated by the radiologist.

4. Administers medications as approved by the supervising radiologist.

5. Monitors patient’s physical condition during the procedure and responds to changes in patient vital signs, hemodynamics and level of consciousness.

6. Collects and documents tissue samples.

7. Communicates the supervising radiologist’s report to the appropriate health care provider consistent with the American College of Radiology Practice Guidelines for Communication of Diagnostic Imaging Findings.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Five – Evaluation

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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
None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Six – Implementation

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:

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

None Added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Seven – Outcomes Measurement

The radiologist assistant reviews and evaluates the outcome of the procedure.

Rationale
To evaluate the quality of care, the radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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 radiologist assistant:
1. Evaluates images for completeness and diagnostic quality and recommends additional images.
2. Reports clinical and imaging observations and procedure details to the supervising radiologist.
3. Performs follow-up patient evaluation and communicates findings to the supervising radiologist.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Clinical Performance Standards

Standard Eight – Documentation

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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 radiologist assistant:
1. Documents use of minimal and moderate sedation.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard One – Assessment

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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 radiologist assistant:
1. Participates in radiation protection, patient safety, risk management and quality management activities.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Two – Analysis/Determination

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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
None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
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Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:

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
None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Four – Performance

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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 radiologist assistant:
1. Participates in quality improvement activities within the radiology practice.
2. Provides a safe environment for patients and staff.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Five – Evaluation

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
1. Validates quality assurance testing conditions and results.
2. Evaluates quality assurance results.
3. Formulates an action plan.

Specific Criteria
The radiologist assistant:
1. Evaluates radiation safety, patient safety, risk management and quality management activities.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Six – Implementation

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
1. Obtains assistance to support the quality assurance action plan.
2. Implements the quality assurance action plan.

Specific Criteria
The radiologist assistant:
1. Implements radiation safety, patient safety, risk management and quality management decisions.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Seven – Outcomes Measurement

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:

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
None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Quality Performance Standards

Standard Eight – Documentation

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:

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

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

Specific Criteria
None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard One – Quality

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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
None added.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard Two – Self Assessment

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:

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.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard Three – Education

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:

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.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard Four – Collaboration and Collegiality

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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 radiologist assistant:
1. Promotes understanding of procedures through in-service for other health care providers.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard Five – Ethics

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:

1. Provides health care services with consideration for a diverse patient population.
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

The radiologist assistant:

1. Communicates with the supervising radiologist prior to providing final diagnosis to other health care providers.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Professional Performance Standards

Standard Six – Research and Innovation

The radiologist assistant 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 radiologist assistant:
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 through publication, presentation and collaboration.
5. Adopts new best practices.

Specific Criteria
The radiologist assistant:
1. Assists with data collection and review for clinical trials or other research.

See also Radiography Practice Standards.
Radiologist Assistant Advisory Opinion Statements

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

Guidance for the Communication of Clinical and Imaging Observations and Procedure Details by Radiologist Assistants to Supervising Radiologists.

Medication Administration by Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals.

Medication Administration Through Existing Vascular Access.

Placement of Personal Radiation Monitoring Devices.
References

ARRT R.R.A. Entry Level Clinical Activities (ELCA) 2009

ARRT R.R.A. Continuing Education Requirements

ASRT Radiologist Assistant Curriculum

ARRT Content Specifications for the Registered Radiologist Assistant Examination