

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Students schedule themselves to assigned clinical rotations for learning experiences in performing radiographic procedures on a patient using radiographic equipment. Each student must be supervised by a qualified technologist in his or her performance of radiologic examinations to assure patient care and safety is not compromised. Students are not to be used in place of paid staff.

Responsibility: Clinical staff, Students, Program Director.
Standard: Human Resources

Students, during clinical experiences, will be supervised at all times. A qualified technologist shall be assigned to each imaging area where a student is assigned regardless of the level of the student's competency. The supervising technologist is in charge at all times and is responsible for the assigned student's performance. The technologist is ultimately responsible for all decisions made regarding the care of the patient as associated with supervising the student.

An appropriately certified health professional must provide for adequate supervision of a student's patient care activities. Once competency has been achieved, independent performance of basic patient care activities will be allowed depending on the patient's condition. (i.e., transportation of the patient, vital signs).

The student will be directly or indirectly supervised, depending upon his or her demonstrated competency for a procedure. Until the student achieves the Program's required competency in a given radiographic procedure, all clinical assignments shall be carried out under the direct supervision of a technologist.

Students must be directly supervised during surgical and all mobile, including mobile fluoroscopy, procedures regardless of the level of competency.

Students shall have the immediate availability of a qualified technologist, while in the performance of patient care responsibilities regardless of the level of the student's achievement.

The ratio of clinical staff technologist to student shall be maintained at 1:1. An exception to this 1:1 ratio may occur when an uncommon procedure is performed. At that time more than one student may temporarily be assigned to a technologist for this procedure.

Each student also has a responsibility to assure that adequate supervision is maintained when performing radiographic procedures. Repeated abuse of the supervision policy by a student will lead to progressive corrective action with possible dismissal from the Program. Clinical staff failing to follow these guidelines will be subject to disciplinary actions as determined by the staff member's supervisor with input from the Program

Director.

Graduates of a radiation sciences program that do not have an ARRT or equivalent certification may not supervise students. Graduate students that are ARRT eligible will not supervise students until after receipt of notification of successfully passing the ARRT examination.

To ensure continued understanding and compliance with this policy, newly hired technologists at all clinical sites will be required to read the Responsibilities of the Radiologic Technologist in Student Education and Supervision form found at the end of this policy and sign the accompanying acknowledgement form.

All Regional West Medical Center imaging staff will complete the Supervision of the Radiologic Technologist Student presentation and test on Regional West Medical Center's online learning center on a yearly basis. Technologists at the off-campus clinical sites will be forwarded the same training and will be asked to complete it on a yearly basis.

Definitions:

Qualified Radiologic Technologist: A qualified radiologic technologist is defined as a technologist who has received primary certification in radiography, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasound or post-primary certification in an advanced modality. The Qualified Radiologic Technologist shall review, sign, and send to the Program Director the attached Responsibility of Supervision form when hired and on a yearly basis.

Immediately Available:

Immediate availability is defined as the technologist present in a room or in a location adjacent to where the imaging procedure is being performed. Immediate availability is required in all situations where ionizing radiation, magnetic resonance or ultrasound imaging is in use.

Direct Supervision:

Direct supervision of a student will be necessary until the student has demonstrated competence for the specified procedure.

The qualified technologist shall accomplish at least the following responsibilities when directly supervising a student:

1. The technologist reviews the request for examination in relation to the student's competence in performing the procedure.
2. The technologist evaluates the condition of the patient in relation to the

student's competence in performing in the procedures

3. The technologist shall determine the level of assistance the student needs in doing the procedure and assist accordingly.
4. The technologist shall be physically present during the procedure including the observation of the positioning of the patient, technique selection and the use of radiation protection measures where applicable.
5. The technologist reviews and approves the images produced by the student.

Students attempting to perform examinations where competency has not been demonstrated and without direct supervision may be subject to corrective action.

Indirect Supervision:

Students, after demonstrating competency for a particular radiographic procedure, may perform the procedure with indirect supervision of the supervising technologist. The qualified technologist, as an indirect supervisor, shall still be immediately available to assist the student. A list of examinations, where the student has shown competence, shall be found on the Program's clinical tracking software. The student and the technologist are responsible for assuring that only exams where the student has demonstrated competency are performed under indirect supervision.

Repeated Imaging:

The presence of a qualified technologist is required during the repeat of any unsatisfactory image performed by a student, regardless of the required level of supervision, to assure patient safety and proper educational practices. The technologist must be physically present during the production of the repeated image and must approve the student's correction(s) prior to re-exposure and assure the image is acceptable.

Isolation Patients:

The presence of a qualified technologist is required during the examination or contact of any patient placed in isolation precautions of any kind. This is to assure student and patient safety. It also allows for education in proper isolation procedures. The technologist must be physically present during the production of any image on an isolation patient and must be physically present during the transportation or interaction with isolation patients.

Surgical and All Mobile Procedures (includes mobile Fluoroscopy):

The presence of a qualified technologist is required during all surgical and mobile procedures. This is to assure student, patient, and personnel safety. It also allows for education in proper surgical and isolation procedures. The technologist must be physically present during surgical and mobile procedures.

Student Restrictions:

In order to assure that the student is not substituted for or given the responsibilities of paid staff, the following limitations are placed on the student during his or her clinical experience. The student:

1. Shall not do any radiographic procedure without the immediate availability of a technologist.
2. Shall repeat radiographs only in the presence of a technologist after the technologist has reviewed the corrective action to produce a diagnostic image.
3. Shall not perform radiographic procedures on isolation patients without direct supervision from a technologist.
4. Shall not perform surgical or mobile radiography, including mobile fluoroscopy, without the direct supervision from a technologist regardless of the level of competency.
5. Shall demonstrate competency in performing an imaging procedure as described in the clinical education courses before attempting any imaging procedure on a patient without direct supervision.
6. Shall not be required to remain after scheduled hours in the clinical assignment.
7. Shall have all radiographs accomplished under the supervision of a technologist and reviewed by a technologist or radiologist for completeness and accuracy of the exam.
8. Shall not be reassigned from the posted clinical area without permission from the Program official.
9. The student shall not hold image receptors during radiographic exposures
10. The student should not hold patients during radiographic exposures.

Signature
Stephanie Cannon, MSRS, RT(R)(ARRT)
Program Director

Signature
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Director of Imaging Services

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REGIONAL WEST MEDICAL CENTER SCHOOL OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST IN STUDENT EDUCATION AND
SUPERVISION FORM (Page 1 of 2)

An important responsibility of the qualified radiologic technologist is to provide adequate supervision and assistance in the clinical education of students enrolled in Regional West Medical Center School of Radiologic Technology.

Qualified Radiologic Technologist:

A qualified radiologic technologist is defined as a technologist who has received primary certification in radiography, nuclear medicine or radiation therapy or certification in an advanced modality.

Guidelines:

The qualified radiologic technologist should expect students to be assigned to him or her, possibly on a daily basis, and the technologist is required to appropriately supervise the activities of the student. The technologist in a supervisory capacity is responsible for being immediately available through the entire day for the student. If the technologist passes his/her supervision of the student to another technologist, then the student must be informed.

Student to technologist ratio will be 1:1. An exception to this 1:1 ratio may occur when an uncommon procedure is performed. At that time more than one student may temporarily be assigned to a technologist.

There are several terms, which are important to understand when supervising students:

Immediately Available:

Students shall have a qualified technologist immediately available in the performance of patient care, regardless of the level of the student's achievement. Immediately available is defined as the qualified technologist is present in a room or location adjacent to where imaging procedures are being performed. Immediate availability is required in all situations where ionizing radiation, magnetic resonance or ultrasound is in use on patients.

Direct Supervision:

Direct supervision is necessary when the student has not demonstrated competency in a particular radiographic examination. A qualified technologist must review the request for examination in relation to the student's achievement. The technologist evaluates the condition of the patient in relation to student's achievements. The technologist shall determine the level of assistance the student shall need in doing the examination and assist accordingly. The technologist shall directly observe the positioning of the patient and technique selection by the student and correct mistakes made by the student before the exposure. The technologist shall physically be present during the procedure including the observation of the positioning of the patient, technique selection and use of radiation protection measures where applicable. The technologist reviews and approves the medical images taken.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST IN STUDENT EDUCATION AND
SUPERVISION FORM (Page 2 of 2)**

Indirect Supervision:

Indirect supervision is allowed when the student has demonstrated competency in a particular radiographic examination. The qualified technologist still has the responsibility to be immediately available for these students. The technologist or a radiologist must review and approve the medical images taken by the student.

Surgical and Mobile Procedures:

The presence of a qualified technologist is required during surgical and all mobile radiography, including mobile fluoroscopy regardless of the level of competency.

Isolation Patients:

The presence of a qualified technologist is required during the examination or contact of any patient placed in isolation precautions of any kind. This is to assure student and patient safety. It also allows for education in proper isolation procedures. The technologist must be physically present during the production of any image on an isolation patient and must be physically present during the transportation or interaction with isolation patients

Repeated Images:

The presence of a qualified technologist is required during the repeat of any unsatisfactory image performed by a student regardless of level of supervision to assure patient safety and proper educational practices. The technologist must be physically present during the conduct of a repeat image and must approve the student's correction action prior to re-exposure.

Students shall not hold image receptor during radiographic procedures.

Students should not hold patients during radiographic exposures.

The Radiography Program at Regional West is essential in providing qualified future technologists for Regional West and the surrounding region. It is important to provide an environment where students learn proper radiographic procedures, quality patient care, and high standards of professionalism.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge I have read and understand this information and am aware that failure to follow these guidelines may result in corrective action.

Signed

Date

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