

Career Profile

MEDICAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGIST

What is a Medical Radiation Technologist? – Career Description/Scope

A Medical Radiation Technologist is a regulated health professional who uses radiation or electromagnetism to produce diagnostic images of a patient's body or who administers radiation to treat patients for certain medical conditions on the order of a physician or other authorized health professional.

Education Requirements to Work in Ontario

- Two to five years of education at college or university level
- Each program consists of didactic (classroom) training as well as a minimum of one year clinical placement

Medical Radiation Technologist Practice Requirements

To practise in Ontario, Medical Radiation Technologists must be registered with the College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario and perform the following requirements:

- Entry to Practice
 - National certification examination administered by the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT)
- Ongoing
 - 25 hours of continuing education annually
 - 360 peer/patient assessment every five years

How does a Medical Radiation Technologist Practise?

- Works to scope of practice as outlined by various legislation and authorities including:
 - College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario
 - Regulated Health Professions Act
 - Medical Radiation Technology Act
 - Public Hospitals Act
- Works under direct orders or medical directives

What does a Medical Radiation Technologist Do?

Medical Radiation Technologists work within one of four specialties in medical radiation technology:

- Radiography – the use of X-rays to produce images of parts of the body on film or on computer screens e.g. mammograms, chest X-rays, barium enemas and CT scans
- Radiation Therapy – the treatment of disease with radiation which involves the use of radiation to destroy diseased cells in the body e.g. cancer

- Nuclear Medicine – the use of low-level radioactive substances which are injected, swallowed or inhaled to produce diagnostic images of how the body functions e.g. bone scans, cardiac stress testing and lung scans
- Magnetic Resonance – the use of electromagnetism to produce diagnostic images, e.g. brain, spine, abdomen, pelvis and the musculoskeletal system

Web Resources

- College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario www.cmrto.org
- Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Sciences www.oamrs.org
- Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists www.camrt.ca