

JANUARY 2022

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Quarterly Advocacy Newsletter from the OSRT



The OSRT has been busy advocating for you and your profession. The Advocacy Committee monitors Ohio legislation and lobbies for/against issues that might impact Radiologic Technologists and the practice of medical imaging.

In the last months of 2021, the Advocacy Committee was involved in the following activities:

- Legislative
- ODH Rules
- Watchdog

MISSION

The OSRT will advocate for Ohio medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals by advancing professional practice to enhance the quality of patient care.

VISION

The OSRT will be the voice of Ohio medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals.

Legislative Activity

House Bill HB 371 “Regards screening mammography and dense breast tissue” sponsored by Representatives Jean Schmidt and Sedrick Denson was introduced in July 2021.

This bill:

- extends mammography coverage to include advanced screening with tomosynthesis.
- requires Medicaid and commercial insurance plans to cover the cost of supplemental breast cancer screenings for adult women who have dense breast tissue or elevated risk for breast cancer.
- update the patient notification letter guidelines for women who have been classified to have dense breast tissue.

The OSRT reviewed the bill and determined that it would have a positive impact of the profession and public radiation health. In October, the House committee on Families, Aging and Human Services held proponent testimony.

- The OSRT provided written testimony in support of this bill.
- In addition, OSRT Legislative Consultant Paul Kudlak met with many of the House committee members to inform them that the OSRT supported the passage of the bill.
- The bill passed the Ohio House on November 18, 2021.

This bill was then sent to the Senate where it was referred to the Senate Health Committee on November 30. To date, there have not been any hearings on the bill, however we expect this to happen when the Senate resumes committee hearings.

The OSRT considers this bill a positive step toward breast health for Ohio women. We will continue to actively monitor this bill and provide support and testimony for its passage.

Below are links to the bill and analysis along with everyone who testified on HB 371 so far.

[House Bill 371 Summary](#)

[House Bill 371 Committee Activity](#)

Ohio Department of Health Rules Activity

Ohio Department of Health - **Rule 3701-72-01 through 3701-72-04**

Licensing of Radiation Handlers in Medical Settings (i.e., Radiologic Licensure rules)

The OSRT has been working to insure appropriate training and competency for the operation of CT units. All current research indicates that CT exams are a large contributor to the populations medical exposure and proper training is imperative. A change in the legislative statute (4773) was passed and subsequently a revision to the Ohio Department of Health rules (3701-72) was initiated. The OSRT wanted to be sure that our input and concerns were addressed and the role of the technologist was recognized and respected as the legal aspects for clinical practice were being discussed and changed. The general result is as follows:

Diagnostic CT exams may be performed by:

- An individual holding an Ohio Radiographers license
- An individual holding an Ohio Nuclear Medicine license AND a recognized CT certification.
- An individual holding an Ohio Radiation Therapy license AND a recognized CT certification.

Radiation Therapy Simulations may be performed by:

- Radiographers or radiation therapists, who have obtained training and demonstrated competency with the CT equipment and protocols, may operate CT units for radiation therapy simulation procedures. CT simulation procedures shall be overseen by a radiation therapist. If the CT equipment is operated for any other diagnostic radiographic procedures, the CT equipment shall be operated by a radiographer

PET Scans may be performed by:

- Positron emission tomography-computed tomography and single photon emission computed tomography-computed tomography fusion procedures shall be performed by a licensed nuclear medicine technologist or a licensed radiographer, who has obtained training and demonstrated competency with the equipment and procedures. Radiopharmaceuticals shall be injected only by a licensed nuclear medicine technologist or other competent licensed individuals acting within their scope of practice as authorized by the Revised Code.

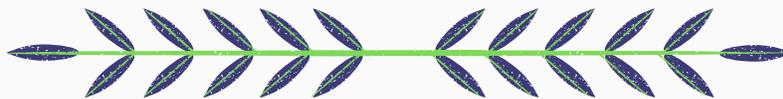
Additional Watchdog Activities

In addition to these actions, the OSRT participated in all pertinent meetings that impact the practice of radiology. This included the Radiation Generating Committee (REC) at ODH, the committee that writes the rules for radiation equipment, operation, and radiologic technology licensure. OSRT Members also attend all Radiation Advisory Council meetings of the ODH, the committee that makes recommendations relative to radiation issues to ODH Director, Bruce Vanderhoff, MD for approval.



JOIN
THE
OSRT

When you ask yourself, “Why should I join the OSRT, what’s in it for me??” Please remember the constant, behind the scenes activities that are done to assure your position in the radiology community is secure and respected. Isn’t this worth \$35.00 per year to you? The more members we have, the more impact we will have talking to these legislators. Don’t think your membership is irrelevant to these efforts - having a large population of members that supports the OSRT’s positions is absolutely critical. Help Us Help You! Please consider investing in your career by joining the OSRT.



Ohio Department of Health Contact Information

Radiologic Licensure Webpage

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Contributors



Linnea Hopewell, M.Ed, R.T. (R)(M)(QM)

Linnea is retired from Central Ohio Technical College as Program Director of the Radiologic Science program. She currently serves as a member of the Radiation Generating Committee of the Ohio Department of Health. She has served the profession in several leadership roles, including President of the OSRT, Editor of Cardinal Rays, chapter and affiliate delegate to the ASRT House of Delegates and chair of many committees. Lin is currently the OSRT Parliamentarian, Recording Secretary and member of the OSRT Advocacy Committee.



Marissa Yourstowsky, S.T.

Marissa is the current student Director and is a second year radiography student at Kent State University Salem Campus. She recently attended the OSRT Leadership Academy and is serving on the Advocacy committee.

Follow us!



2022 Annual Meeting

April 7-9

DoubleTree Columbus-Worthington

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