



# Advocacy Update

Quarterly Advocacy Newsletter from the OSRT

## 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.

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*As a member benefit, the OSRT will be sending out quarterly newsletters to keep its members informed about Ohio legislation efforts we are watching that impact our practice.*

## What is advocacy and why should I care?

In 1995, the Ohio legislature passed legislation mandating licensure of Radiologic Technologists practicing in the state. This legislation provided just the general framework for the requirements to practice. The Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Protection was directed to develop the rules, which filled in the details. This is how the licensure of Radiologic Technologists came under the purview of the Ohio Department of Health and not under a separate licensing board. So our practice is regulated by both the legislative *statute* and the Ohio Department of Health *rules*, which must be in concert with each other. Any change in either of these can have a major impact on how we practice our profession.

Once the statute and the rules were passed, you might think that our work was done. Nothing is further from the truth. **Advocacy is more important to our profession now than ever before.** Anyone can open the licensure *statute* and offer up an amendment to the statute at any time. All that is needed is one legislator to sponsor the amendment. The Ohio *rules* are reviewed/ revised at a minimum of every 5 years, so again anyone can offer up an amendment to change our practice during the these reviews.

The OSRT is watching all this for any activity that might change our profession in Ohio.



## What is advocacy .....

There are many health professions that try to expand into other areas.

Here are just a few recent examples of encroachment into radiology areas:

- ◆ Iowa - a bill was introduced (2010) that would allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) to oversee fluoroscopy procedures and radiology personnel. This went all the way to the Iowa Supreme Court and was ultimately upheld.
- ◆ Kentucky - a bill was introduced that would allow APRN to perform medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures as well as supervise Radiologic Technologists. This was ultimately defeated because of advocacy efforts.
- ◆ Arizona - a bill was introduced (2016) that would permit Physician Assistants to operate diagnostic imaging equipment.
- ◆ Kansas - a bill was introduced that would exempt Advanced Practice Registered Nurses from any restriction on operating radiation equipment.
- ◆ The Arizona and Kansas bills were not successful, however the state societies expect them to be reintroduced in the future.
- ◆ OHIO - several years ago, an amendment was introduced to the licensure law that would allow Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists to perform duties of a radiographer. The OSRT actively opposed this and ultimately it was defeated.

In 2019, changes were made to the Ohio radiologic licensing statute in the 2019 Budget Bill passed in July. During the discussion phase, many legislators were approached for support of an amendment that would put the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse as supervisors of Radiologic Technologists. Because of the OSRT's good relations with legislators and other organizations, this was not supported by the legislators and was not included in the final bill.

These are just a few of the issues that are cropping up in Ohio and around the country. Without the OSRT's efforts, changes could be enacted without our knowledge or input and little to no opposition. The OSRT employs a lobbyist and is working diligently to form alliances with other like-minded organizations, and to form relationships with legislators.

If you have ever asked the question "WHY SHOULD I JOIN THE OSRT? WHAT DOES THE OSRT DO FOR ME?" THIS IS THE ANSWER. Don't you want someone advocating for the Radiologic Technologist as laws and rules are written that affect us?!

**That is the OSRT!**

## What current Advocacy issue are we watching?

In July of this year, changes were enacted to our Radiologic Licensure law with the passage of the Ohio Budget, HB 166.

- ◆ Because of the use of CT in PET/CT, SPECT/CT and Radiation Therapy simulations, Nuclear Medicine Technologists and Therapists may utilize CT in the performance of their job.
- ◆ Since the use of CT is part of their scope of practice, these individuals can perform these procedures if they possess the primary nuclear medicine or the radiation therapy credential. (N, CNMT, T)
- ◆ Because CT has become part of these modalities routine procedures, CT has been included in these primary educational respective curricula.

The current changes to the statute will now permit Nuclear Medicine Technologists and Radiation therapists who hold an **additional specific credential in CT** to perform “diagnostic” CT exams.

There are currently two ways for radiologic professionals with the primary certifications of (R), (N), (CNMT) or (T) to earn a specific post-primary credential in CT.

- ◆ One is the familiar ARRT CT credential, which includes clinical performance and education requirements.
- ◆ The other is administered by the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB), which also requires education requirements, and since July 2019 includes documented clinical performance.
- ◆ The ASRT recognizes both credentials -ARRT(CT) and NMTCB-CT- as appropriate for the practice of CT.

As before, an individual holding an Ohio Radiographer’s license can still perform CT without a post-primary CT certification.

The OSRT has worked hard on this issue to assure that individuals who can perform CT are appropriately educated and clinically competent. We were in personal meetings and discussions with legislators when this statute was being drafted. We are currently in meetings and discussions with the Ohio Department of Health in the drafting of the rules.

OSRT Members in attendance at the Ohio Statehouse for the OSRT Advocacy Evening on June 5, 2019.





## What can you do?

Send your comments! The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) will be putting the proposed rule changes out for public comment very soon. The OSRT will put notification of this posting on its website ([www.osrt.org](http://www.osrt.org)). The ODH comment format allows individuals to respond with comments directly to the ODH. If you would like to comment to the OSRT, or if you have questions please contact [advocacy@osrt.org](mailto:advocacy@osrt.org).

And as always, you can further support these efforts to safeguard our practice by joining the OSRT! The larger the membership the more the legislators and administrators listen to our concerns. 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!

## Follow us!

Be sure to follow the OSRT on social media!

