

Technical Standards for the Radiation Therapy Profession

Description of the Profession: Radiation Therapists deliver care to the patient in the therapeutic setting and are responsible for the simulation and administration of a prescribed course of radiation therapy. Radiation therapists assume direct responsibility for the well-being of the patient preparatory to, during and following the delivery of daily treatment.

The radiation therapist must have sufficient emotional and physical strength, motor coordination and quantitative abilities required to perform the following activities:

1. Work in a clinical setting eight to ten hours a day, frequently performing physical tasks, requiring physical energy without jeopardizing patient, self, or colleague safety.
 - a. Manually position patients that are lying on a treatment couch that may be 4 feet above the floor.
 - b. Be able to focus and concentrate for long periods of time, in a busy environment.
2. Frequent reaching, lifting, and the use of manual dexterity in the manipulation and operation of equipment as well as for the creation of immobilization devices.
 - a. Lift treatment accessories and beam shaping devices weighing thirty (30) pounds of weight up and over one's head.
 - b. Make fine adjustments to equipment using a hand pendant with thumbwheel controls.
3. Frequently transporting, moving, lifting and transferring patients from a wheelchair or stretcher to and from a treatment/simulation table.
 - a. Push standard wheelchair from waiting area to treatment room.
 - b. Assist patients with mobility difficulties on and off the treatment couch.
 - c. Moving immobile patients from stretcher to treatment table with assistance from departmental personnel.
4. Ability to communicate information and instructions in clear and concise manner to patients and medical personnel.
 - a. Read and apply appropriate instructions located in treatment charts, computer monitors, notes and medical records.
 - b. Understand and apply clinical instructions given by departmental personnel.
 - c. Write clear and legible instructions and daily treatment data in the patient's radiation therapy chart.
5. Possess sufficient visual and aural acuity.
 - a. Report visual observations of patients and equipment operation as well as to read the patient's radiation records and medical information.
 - b. Vision must be adequate to align laser lights and crosshairs on patients in a dimmed light environment.
 - c. Ability to view computer screens for extended periods.
 - d. Visually monitor patients in dimmed light and via video monitors during treatment.

- e. Audio monitoring of patients during treatment and perceiving and interpreting subtle equipment signals.
- 6. To have sufficient problem-solving skills to include measuring, calculating, reasoning, analyzing, evaluating and synthesizing with the ability to perform these skills in a timely fashion.
- 7. Utilize keyboard for inputting clinical data into treatment console and computers.
 - a. Ability to perform basic computer functions.