



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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Impacts of COVID-19

As COVID-19 continues to keep us on our toes in both our personal and professional lives, advocates in the profession remain vigilant in continuing the protection of RT’s best interests. As far as Ohio legislations, there are no current issues either in the Ohio house or senate that have been active on the floor since earlier this year. As the OSRT advocacy committee, we are dedicated to advocate if situations arise where input is needed in order to best convey the interests of our profession. Although not in Ohio specifically, here are some national issues that some fellow RT’s have come in contact with that are interesting to monitor as we face these ever changing and evolving times and look out for similar legislations or issues if they arise.

COVID-19 and radiologic technologists and radiation therapists inclusion as “essential workers”

- A Louisiana bill overlooks radiologic technologists and radiation therapists as essential personnel excluding the group from a one-time tax rebate
- ASRT calls for an executive order revising the list to include radiologic technologists and radiation therapists

ASRT works on Hazard Pay Legislation

- Alliance of the ASRT and 5 other radiologic science organizations are working to secure key changes to House Resolution 6484 (Hazard Pay for the Frontlines During Health Emergencies Act).
- The bill currently includes medical imaging professionals, but not radiation therapists
- The alliance is advocating for radiation therapists to be included in this list of professions due to their continuation to provide life-saving treatments during the ongoing pandemic.



Covid-19 (con't.)

A coalition of radiologic science associations including ASRT have urged leaders in U.S. House and Senate to take six key steps to stabilize and support the health care delivery system during the COVID-19 crisis:

- Provide additional direct, focused financial support to physician and non-physician practices and their management partners, hospitals, and ASC's across the health care delivery system.
- Waive budget neutrality for the Medicare payment changes for evaluation and management services that are slated to be implemented on Jan. 1, 2021.
- Support all essential medical imaging and radiology workers including radiographers, sonographers, computed tomography technologists, radiation therapists and nuclear medicine technologists by providing HEROES/ hazard pay.
- Reduce liability for health care workers and emergency responders in this crisis.
- Temporary waiver of prior authorizations during pandemic/state of emergency.
- Delay appropriate use criteria.

Commending RT Advocates around the US

In June the 2020 American Society of Radiological Technologist's Award for Advocacy were given to two leading voices in the Radiological community. The ASRT Award for Advocacy acknowledges achievements in advocacy effort and highlight's the ASRT's commitment to supporting affiliates and radiologic technologists who defend professional standards and protect patient safety through regulatory and legislative action.

Jennifer Clayton M.B.A., R.T.(R)(CT) is known for being a vocal part of the Oregon community of Radiological Technologists. She has spoken many times at hearings and worked with legislators about preventing encroachment by advanced practice registered nurses. She was instrumental in halting a move by APRNs to perform fluoroscopy exams with only limited machine operation training, and by limiting APRNs only to supervising fluoroscopy exams performed by a licensed radiologic technologist. She was also key in distributing information about the Oregon Health Authority Radiation Protection services' decision to discontinue patient gonadal shielding in her state.

Nicholas Gimmi M.H.A., R.T.(R)(CT), CRA has been a leader in the Virginian Society of Radiologic Technologist's community for years and as incoming president of the VSRT, Gimmi worked to create an advocacy network for Virginian technologists. He is quick to cation when a proposed bill would have allowed untrained personnel to perform body composition scanning using dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry or computed tomography scanners after receiving only minimal training from equipment manufacturers.

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