

RADIOLOGY TECHNOLOGIST CLINICAL ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Overview: The Radiology Technologist (RT) practices in collaboration with the health care team to facilitate the coordination of care for patients and support for their families. Radiology Technologists provide direct care to patients by educating them and their families on a course of assessment that includes a prescribed dose of irradiation. The technologist is competent to assess, treat and care for patients whose developmental ages range from infant to geriatric adult. Over the course of a UPHS career, RTs develop a depth and breadth of skill that enables them to practice with increasing confidence and growing autonomy. UPHS Radiology Technologists have been welcomed into prestigious institutions across the country where they are valued for their experience with a broad spectrum of patients, therapies and technologies.

Professional Growth and Recognition: Opportunities range from developing experience as a Diagnostic Technologist in basic radiographic procedures to mastery in a variety of Special Diagnostic Technologist positions (e.g., Interventional Radiology, CT, Neurology IR) and other specializations (e.g., Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Ultrasound and Nuclear Medicine). Attends staff meetings and AMA category I approved conferences and symposia. Records and maintains standard imaging logs and records to conform to regulations. Opportunities exist to acquire additional licenses and certifications. UPHS' Department of Radiology is accredited by the American College of Radiology.

Autonomy in Practice: The technologist independently sets up the radiographic room for each procedure. The technologist then exercises independent action, judgment, decision-making and planning regarding the patient's position and protocol while performing the scan. Expect self-motivation with regard to increasing knowledge of the field and new procedures as they evolve.

Clinical Leadership: Communicates with physician as to patient's studies and communicates results to designated hospital personnel where indicated. Requires flexibility and independent decision-making. Technologists continuously review anatomy, physiology and new technology.

Technical Skill Progression: Operates imaging equipment and related computer systems along with support equipment. Performs QC procedures on equipment and can trouble-shoot minor problems prior to reporting them to first-line supervisor. Checks operation and calibration of survey equipment and monitoring devices against known standards. Records and maintains standard imaging logs and records to conform to regulations.

Clinical Skill Progression: Reviews radiograph requisitions to determine type of exam, pertinent clinical history and views ordered prior to performing the study on the patient. Takes radiographs of patients referred to the department. Reads all staff notes, attends section and quarterly meetings, education sessions and keeps abreast of changes within the department.

Clinical Judgement: Uses all radiographic equipment independently and exercises good judgment with technique factors. Exercises proper decision-making regarding positioning the patients, protocol and equipment usage. Contributes technical and professional knowledge to diagnostic impression.

Patient and Family Relationships: Technologists are responsible for the safety, mental and physical comfort of patients. They prepare patients for procedures and explain what to expect. Technologists promote UPHS organizational values of patient and visitor satisfaction by demonstrating courtesy and respect for patients and their families.

Team and Community Relationships: Works as a member of a healthcare team that includes physicians, nurses and other radiologists. Technologists instruct physicians (residents, fellows, and affiliate students) and assist in orienting new employees to the department.