



Ontario Association of
Medical Radiation Sciences

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Dear OAMRS Members,

We would like to inform you that the College of Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists of Ontario (CMRITO) has provided an important clarification on a recent CAMRT position statement called “Discontinuing the Use of Gonadal and Fetal Shielding for Patients.” The CAMRT statement “recommends that MRTs advocate for their facilities to make the necessary adjustment to their respective policy and procedures to discontinue the use of gonadal and fetal shielding on patients undergoing x-ray-based diagnostic imaging.” It also “recommends that these policies be reflective of current best practice and be compliant with all relevant provincial and federal legislation.”

The CMRITO, which regulates MRIT practice in Ontario, “confirms for Ontario MRTs that there have been no changes to the provincial legislation or the CMRITO Standards of Practice and MRTs must continue to comply with facility policies regarding the use of radiation protection devices, including shielding.” CMRITO also reminds Ontario MRITs that “CAMRT is not the authority that determines shielding practice within a province or facility – MRTs must work within the standards set by their regulatory body and their facility’s policies and procedures.”

In response to members’ questions, OAMRS would like to take this opportunity to remind you that healthcare is provincial, and, in Ontario, your practice is subject to provincial laws and regulations such as the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA), Medical Radiation and Imaging Technology Act, Healing Arts Radiation Protection (HARP) Act; College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) Clinical Practice Standards for Independent Health Facilities (IHF); and regulation by the CMRITO. Fundamental changes to radiation safety that have been enshrined in practice, legislation and regulations for decades cannot be made or directed by a professional association. We reiterate the CMRITO position that “MRITs in Ontario are required to comply with provincial legislation and the CMRITO Standards of Practice regarding their practice, including the use of radiation protection devices, and there are no changes to these standards.”

OAMRS emphasizes that any changes to provincial legislation, regulations, and standards of practice regarding a deeply entrenched area of practice across our sectors requires a comprehensive and transparent process of collaboration and consultation that will help inform any proposed policy changes, prior to a change in the practice setting. The process will involve a comprehensive review of all the relevant literature and positions, and substantive consultation and coordination with relevant

industry experts and stakeholders, including medical imaging professionals, and other regulated healthcare professionals; government; provincial healthcare regulators, including CMRITO; Medical Radiation Sciences programs at Ontario colleges and universities; other professional associations; patients and patient advocacy groups; employers; hospitals and representatives of independent health facilities; and representatives from the healthcare insurance industry.

As your provincial professional association, we assure you that we will involve you in any consultative process that occurs and keep you informed. The change process, if desired, can be prolonged and complicated because the necessary changes will touch many areas of practice, settings and cross a number of affected policies, regulations, and legislation. It will ensure that any changes will reflect the best scientific evidence and incorporate input from all the key experts and stakeholders. If changes are successfully adopted by Ontario facilities, a specific communications and education strategy would be developed accordingly at that time to help MRTs educate patients. In the meantime, we ask that you review the CMRITO [statement](#) and ensure that you continue to comply with provincial legislation and the CMRITO Standards of Practice, including the use of radiation protection devices. If you have any questions regarding your practice as an MRIT in Ontario, please contact the CMRITO at practiceadvice@cmrito.org.

If you have any questions about the OAMRS position and strategy, please email schonewilles@oamrs.org.