

Administering Medication in Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter Lines or Ports with a Power Injector

The ASRT House of Delegates has a position statement regarding the ability of medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals to administer medication through a peripherally inserted central catheter or port. After research of evidentiary documentation such as current literature, curricula, position statements, scopes of practice, laws and federal and state regulations and inquiries received by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Office of Practice Standards, the ASRT issued the opinions as contained herein.

Accountability and Responsibility of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals

The profession holds medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals responsible and accountable for rendering safe, effective clinical services to patients and for judgments exercised and actions taken in the course of providing those services.

Acts that are within the recognized scope of practice for a given license or certification may be performed only by those individuals who possess the education and skill proficiency to perform those acts in a safe and effective manner.

The medical imaging and radiation therapy professional's performance should be consistent with state and federal laws, established standards of practice, facility policies and procedures and be evidence based.

Definitions

The following definitions can be found in the Glossary to The Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy:

Educationally prepared
Clinically competent

Evidentiary Documentation

Current Literature

Not applicable.
(Quality of evidence: not applicable)

Curriculum

The ASRT curricula for all practice areas were reviewed.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging Curriculum

Section IX, Safety in MR Contrast Administration

C.2. identified the use of an existing line for the administration of contrast media.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) – Computed Tomography (CT) Curriculum
Content Specifications for Basic Nuclear Medicine and PET for Dual Modality
Imaging
Section IV, B, 2 and C, 1, p. 7 & Section I, A, 4 and B, p. 11.

(Quality of evidence: High)

Certification Agency Content Specifications

The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists content specifications.
Computed Tomography Category A, Section 2, E, 2, a-d.
Cardiac Interventional/Vascular Interventional Category B, Section 4, A.

(Quality of evidence: High)

Scopes of Practice and Practice Standards Reference

ASRT Standards of Practice for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy.

All modality specific scopes of practice except radiologist assistants, medical dosimetrist and limited x-ray machine operator.

Identifying, preparing and/or administering medications as prescribed by a licensed practitioner.
Clinical Performance Standards, Standard Four - Performance, *General Criteria*

7. Uses accessory equipment.

(Quality of evidence: High)

Federal and State Statute Reference(s)

Not Applicable.

(Quality of evidence: not applicable)

Other

Not applicable.

(Quality of evidence: not applicable)

Advisory Opinion

It is the opinion of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists that:

1. Based upon the curricula set forth by the ASRT and the ASRT Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy, it is within the scope of practice for medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals to use a power injector for the administration of medication when a Food and Drug Administration approved PICC line or port specifically for power injectors is used, when manufacturer guidelines regarding infusion rate and pressure are followed and where federal or state law and/or institutional policy permits.

GRADE: Strong

Rationale

The ASRT's position is to determine the practice standards' and scopes of practice for medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals. The practice standards general stipulation emphasizes the importance of an individual being educationally prepared and clinically competent to practice in the profession of medical imaging and radiation therapy. With proper education and proven competence, the use of power injectors with PICC lines or ports provides quality patient services in a safe environment.

Determining Scope of Practice

Each medical imaging and radiation therapy professional must exercise professional and prudent judgment in determining whether the performance of a given act is within the scope of practice for which the medical imaging and radiation therapy professional is licensed, if applicable within the jurisdiction in which he/she is employed, educationally prepared and clinically competent to perform.

The ASRT issues advisory opinions as to what constitutes appropriate practice. As such, an opinion is not a regulation or statute and does not have the force and effect of law. It is issued as a guidepost to medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals who wish to engage in safe practice. Federal and state laws, accreditation standards necessary to participate in government programs and lawful institutional policies and procedures supersede these standards. The individual must be educationally prepared and clinically competent as a prerequisite to professional practice.

Approved: June 19, 2011

Amended, Main Motion, C-13.21 and C13.23, 2013

Amended, Main Motion, C-16.12, 2016

Amended, Main Motion, C-17.08, 2017

ASRT House of Delegates