

Radiology Assistants

Introduction

- Currently, there is a shortage of radiologists and an increased demand in patient exams. Due to this shortage, RAs were introduced to help lighten the workload of Radiologist (McLeod & Montane, 2010).

Who Are They?

- “Registered RTs who have completed an advanced level of education in the radiologic sciences and passed an advanced certification examination offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (May, 2005, p. 31)”.

Supervision

- Direct - The RA is required to have a radiologist be present in the facility and be readily available to provide assistance when needed (Ludwig et al., 2009).
- Personal – Radiologist is required to be in the same room as RA during critical part of the the procedure (Ludwig et al., 2009).

Patient Satisfaction

- Shorter wait times
- Results in:
- Increased compliance
- Will come back for future exams

Patient Assessment Process

- Thoroughly explains procedures
- Answers patients questions
- Spending time with patients and their families
 - Prepares the patient
 - Obtains patient consent
- Adapts protocols to improve diagnostic qualities
- This in Turn:
- Gives radiologist time to attend to other duties
- More appointments can be scheduled which leads to increased department productivity and hospital revenue (Ten Napel et al., 2014).

Benefits

- Performs certain exams
- Makes observations of diagnostic images
 - Fills out paperwork
- Perform all of the patient interactions before, during, and after exams
- Are liaisons between physicians, radiographers, administrators, and radiologists
- Allows radiologists to have increase reading times with more difficult or severe cases
- Gives radiologic technologists (RTs) an opportunity to advance in their profession

Exams

- PICC line placements
 - Lumbar punctures
 - NG tube and ET tube placements
 - Arthrograms
 - Myelograms
 - Biopsies
- Ellenogen et al., 2007

Conclusion

- RAs are extraordinary help by managing and assessing patients, performing selected exams and procedures, and making/forwarding observations to the radiologists (May, 2005).

References

- Anderson, K. (2007). A day in the life of Jeff Crowley, radiologist assistant. *ASRT Scanner*, 40(2), 22-24.
- ASRT Scanner. (2008). Radiologist assistants: Where they stand now. *RSNA 2007 Coverage*, 40(4), 13-28. Retrieved from <http://library.clarksoncollege.edu:2417/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=4354812d-86c9-45b9-9378ab08727b5348%40sessionmgr4006&hid=11&hid=4112>
- Ellenogen, P., Hoffman, T., Short, B., & Gonzalez, A. (2007). The radiologist assistant: What radiologists need to know now. *Journal of The American College of Radiology*, 4(7), 461-470. Retrieved from <http://library.clarksoncollege.edu:2417/ehost/command/detail?vid=9&sid=d78daf28-5fa3-4d82-9cef-ad1cdcbe5973%40sessionmgr4006&hid=4201&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtGjZlZGQ%3d%3d#AN=105844424&db=ccm>
- Ludwig, R., Torsiello, B., & Norton, W. (2009). Assessing radiologist assistant supervision levels in Florida. *Radiologic Technology*, 80(4), 309-317. Retrieved from <http://library.clarksoncollege.edu:2417/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=11&sid=d78daf28-5fa3-4d82-9cef-ad1cdcbe5973%40sessionmgr4006&hid=4201>
- May, L. (2005). The radiologist assistant: A new member of the radiology team. *Journal of Radiology Nursing*, 24(2), 31-32. doi:10.1016/j.jradnu.2005.01.003
- McLeod, N., & Montane, G. (2010). The radiologist assistant: The solution to radiology workforce needs. *Emergency Radiology*, 17(3), 253-256. doi:10.1007/s10140-006-0505-9. Retrieved from <http://library.clarksoncollege.edu:2417/ehost/command/detail?vid=13&sid=d78daf28-5fa3-4d82-9cef-ad1cdcbe5973%40sessionmgr4006&hid=4201&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtGjZlZGQ%3d%3d#AN=105165320&db=ccm>
- Mercer, J. (2008). Breaking new ground for registered radiologist assistants. *NEWS-Line For Radiology Professionals*, 10(6-7), 4-7. Retrieved from <http://library.clarksoncollege.edu:2417/ehost/command/detail?vid=15&sid=d78daf28-5fa3-4d82-9cef-ad1cdcbe5973%40sessionmgr4006&hid=4201&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtGjZlZGQ%3d%3d#AN=105801079&db=ccm>
- Sanders, V. L. (2014). Patient satisfaction with radiologist assistants. *Radiologic Technology*, 85(6), 599-608. Retrieved from <http://library.clarksoncollege.edu:2417/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=16&sid=d78daf28-5fa3-4d82-9cef-ad1cdcbe5973%40sessionmgr4006&hid=4201>
- Shay, W., Silva, D., Mohabir, H., & Erinjeri, J. (2017). The effect of radiologist assistants in an interventional radiology department. *Radiologic Technology*, 88(3), 333-338. Retrieved from <http://library.clarksoncollege.edu:2417/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=18&sid=d78daf28-5fa3-4d82-9cef-ad1cdcbe5973%40sessionmgr4006&hid=4201>
- Ten Napel, T. L., Sanders, V. L., & Wright, D. L. (2014). Radiologist assistant: Best fit for medical imaging. *Radiology Management*, 36(2), 22-7; quiz 28. Retrieved from <http://library.clarksoncollege.edu:2417/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=20&sid=d78daf28-5fa3-4d82-9cef-ad1cdcbe5973%40sessionmgr4006&hid=4201>