

ASRT Professional Practice Resources

Practice Standards

The practice standards define the practice and establish general and specific criteria to determine compliance.

Practice standards are authoritative statements established by the profession for judging the quality of practice, service and education. Professional practice constantly changes as a result of a number of factors including technological advances, market and economic forces, and statutory and regulatory mandates.

For all medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals, aspects of professional practice can vary throughout the United States. Community custom, state statute or regulation may dictate local practice parameters. Whenever there is a conflict between these standards and state or local statutes and regulations, the state or local statutes and regulations supersede these standards. Recognizing this, the profession has adopted standards that are purposely broad in nature.

Practice standards and scopes of practice can be the document that states, institutions and legal advisors use to assess the appropriateness of practice.

Scopes of Practice

Scopes of practice delineate the parameters of practice, identify the boundaries for practice and typically are formatted as lists of tasks that are appropriate to include as part of the work of an individual who is educationally prepared and clinically competent for that profession.

Each scope of practice is limited to that which the law allows for specific education, experience and demonstrated competency. Many states have laws, licensing bodies and regulations that describe requirements for education and training and define scopes of practice for professions.

It is important to note that even though scopes of practice are often lists of tasks, they should be worded broadly. A scope of practice may include the statement: Starting and maintaining intravenous (IV) access. This is a broad statement and does not say how to do the task or which devices to use. Those specifics may be determined by the institutional policy and may vary from facility to facility.

If the ASRT House of Delegates decides there is a need for further clarification about a specific type of IV access, then an advisory opinion statement can be developed.

Advisory Opinion Statements

Advisory opinion statements are interpretations of the practice standards. They are intended for

Decision Tree of Practice

Decision trees are flowchart graphs or diagrams that help explore decision alternatives and their possible outcomes.

f This tool allows someone to describe a medical imaging or radiation therapy procedure, walk it through some steps and determine if it is within scope of practice.

f This tool is oftentimes included with responses to practice questions.

This information should not be considered legal advice nor should it be accepted as a substitute for advice by a licensed attorney in your state.

