



# The Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy

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## Glossary

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**Action plan** – A program or method that explains the actions or steps to be taken.

**Advanced-practice radiographer** – A registered technologist who has gained additional knowledge and skills through the successful completion of an organized program or radiologic technology education that prepares radiologic technologists for advanced practice roles and has been recognized by the national certification organization to engage in the practice of advanced-practice radiologic technology.

**Anatomic (anatomical) landmarks** – Bones or other identifiable points that are visible or palpable and indicate the position of internal anatomy.

**Archive (archival)** –The storage of data in either hard (film) or soft (digital) form.

**Artifact** – A structure or feature produced by the technique used and not occurring naturally.

**As low as reasonably achievable (ALARA)** Acronym for “as low as (is) reasonably achievable,” which means making every reasonable effort to maintain exposures to radiation as far below the dose limits as practical, consistent with the purpose for which the licensed activity is undertaken, while taking into account the state of technology, the economics of improvements in relation to state of technology, the economics of improvements in relation to benefits to the public health and safety and other societal and socioeconomic considerations, and in relation to the use of nuclear energy and licensed materials in the public interest. The ASRT recognizes the concept of ALARA to include energies used for magnetic resonance and sonographic imaging.

**Assessment** The process by which a patient’s condition is appraised or evaluated.

**Authorized User** -

**Clinically competent**– The ability to perform a clinical procedure in a manner that satisfies the demands of a situation, as assessed and documented by a qualified individual.

**Contrast media**– A substance administered during a medical imaging procedure for the purpose of enhancing the contrast between an internal structure or fluid and the surrounding tissue.

**Custom blocks**– Devices designed to shape the radiation field.

**Digital Imaging Communications in M**

**Interpretation** – The process of examining and analyzing all images within a given procedure and integration of the imaging data with appropriate clinical data in order to

Normal tissue tolerance– Radiation tolerance levels of healthy organs near or within



**Venipuncture** – The transcutaneous puncture of a vein by a sharp rigid stylet or cannula carrying a flexible plastic catheter or by a steel needle attached to a syringe or catheter.

**Verification images** – Images produced to confirm accurate treatment positioning and accurate treatment portals.

**Z-score** – Number of standard deviations the individual's bone mineral density is from the average bone mineral density for and gender-matched reference group.