



Association for Radiologic & Imaging Nursing

POSITION STATEMENT

Patient Safety in the Imaging Setting

Overview

A variety of factors create a high risk imaging environments. Patients in the imaging setting may be vulnerable to injury related to cumulative exposure to ionizing radiation, exposure to hazardous materials, and the physical environment with its attendant equipment.^{2,3}

Imaging nurses are key providers to the successful mitigation of risk and injury through the use of patient safety strategies (PSS). The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) defines PSS to include any process or structure “whose application reduces the probability of adverse events resulting from exposure to the healthcare system across a range of diseases and procedures”.¹

Target Audience

Radiology Nurses, Radiology Technologists, Radiologists, Radiology Residents, Medical Students

Position

The Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing (ARIN) is dedicated to the success of research, education, and implementation of evidence-based measures that ensure the well-being of patients receiving care and treatment in the imaging setting. Therefore, it is the position of the ARIN that:

1. Patients, families and communities have the right to safe, effective, quality care in the imaging setting.
2. The registered nurse plays a crucial role in ensuring patient safety strategies are implemented at every patient interaction, every time.¹
3. Every patient undergoing invasive procedures deserves to have an Registered Nurse providing care throughout the peri-procedural experience.⁴
4. All health care providers must participate in multi-disciplinary teamwork and collaboration to create and sustain a culture of safety. This includes institutions and manufacturers of medical imaging equipment; encouraged to work together to develop industry standards addressing quality and safety.

References

¹Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. (2013). Making health care safer II: An updated critical analysis of the evidence for patient safety practices. Retrieved from <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/evidence-based-reports/ptsafetyuptp.html>

²American College of Radiology. (2013). Practice guidelines & technical standards. Retrieved from <http://www.acr.org/Quality-Safety/Standards-Guidelines>

³American College of Radiology. (2008). ACR position statement on quality control and improvement, safety, infection control, and patient education. Retrieved from <http://www.acr.org/~media/ACR/Documents/PGTS/PositionStatement.pdf>

⁴Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses. (2011). Position statements: Patient safety. Retrieved from http://www.aorn.org/Clinical_Practice/Position_Statements/Position_Statements.aspx

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