

Memorandum

To: NSRPA members, RPA students and graduates

From: Roland W. Clements, MS, M.Ed. FASRT,
President, CBRPA

Subject: Certification as a Radiology Assistant

Date: 2/14/04

The CBRPA Board of Directors met in conjunction with the NSRPA 2005 Annual meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada. During this board meeting the CBRPA Board discussed the possibility of offering a certification examination to the Radiologist Assistant (RA). This action would then add the designation of Radiology Assistant (RA) to the current title of the Radiology Practitioner Assistant (RPA). The CBRPA Board has since sought further advice and guidance and has voted to begin the process of offering a certification examination to the Radiology Assistants. Thus, your RPA credentials are acknowledged and your CBRPA credentials will be changed to: RPA, RA (CBRPA). This change is effective immediately and your renewal cards and certificates will reflect this change.

Throughout the current literature the Radiology Assistant is defined as an occupational title for the advanced practice technologist. Therefore, one rationale for this action is that the current documents regarding the RA, as defined by the American College of Radiology (ACR) "Statement on Radiology Assistant Functions (www.acr.org 10/30/04), and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) documents, "Clinical Competence Requirements for Radiologist Assistants, September 2004 Draft", and the "ARRT Content Specifications for the Radiologist Assistant Examination, Draft CS9D Fall 2004" are already included in the larger scope of practice of the RPA. The CBRPA certification requirements includes these subject areas plus additional content areas.

The ACR, American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) and the ARRT are currently in the developmental phase of the occupation of the Radiology Assistant. The efforts of these organizations have not emerged into the realization of the Radiology Assistant occupational level as of this date; hence, there are no practicing, credentialed RA's. The CBRPA action will firmly establish this occupational title and level of advanced practice for registered technologists.

This CBRPA action was invoked in the spirit of co-operation and unity of the radiology community and should eliminate any confusion between these two different entities. Additionally, this action will assist the Radiology Practitioner Assistant (RPA) with the right to practice their profession.

I was also pleased at the announcement at the NSRPA meeting that the Society of Interventional Radiologists (SIR) endorsed the RPA title and profession. I would encourage all RPA's to become a member of the SIR professional organization.