



Certification Board for Radiology Practitioner Assistants Position Statement

Preliminary Reports

Introduction:

Radiology Practitioner Assistants (RPA) make important contributions to improving patient access to medical imaging procedures, performing imaging procedures and other responsibilities competently and enhancing the overall quality of patient care. Research has also demonstrated that a RPA working in a department increases patient satisfaction, efficiency and provides improved access to medical imaging services.

Qualifications:

RPAs must successfully initially pass a nationally recognized examination process to earn the credential and to preserve the credential they must maintain certification in radiography and in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), complete required continuing education credits and every ten years successfully pass a re-certification examination.

Following certification, RPAs are then subjugated to the governing documents of the Certification Board of Radiology Practitioner Assistants (CBRPA). These documents are *Scope of Practice*, *Standards of Practice*, *Standards of Professional Performance* and the *Code of Ethics*.

In the clinical practice area, additional criteria are applied by the health care facility credentialing committees, state licensing and institutional standards. The RPA performance and competency level is also closely monitored by the supervising physicians and the imaging department staff. Therefore, the RPA is adequately tested, monitored and deemed competent to perform procedures and tasks specified by a licensed physician.

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to clarify areas of concern regarding the tasks and responsibilities of the RPA when submitting information to physicians.

Final Report:

Although the RPA may play a critical role in performing medical procedures that are essential to the rendering of a final diagnosis, providing a final diagnosis represents the practice of medicine and is the sole responsibility of the interpreting physician to provide the final report.

Preliminary Report:

A preliminary or technical report is an internal report issued by the RPA that may be either written or oral and submitted to the physician issuing the final interpretation.

1. If the interpreting physician is not immediately available, a protocol must be in place to address unexpected or emergency findings.
2. If the patient is not kept waiting until the physician reviews the images, a call-back mechanism must be in place.
3. Upon the direction or standing order of the interpreting physician, a RPA may provide the preliminary report to the referring physician.