Proposal for RPA Position

Position Description:

An RPA is a health care professional certified and registered in radiography and is credentialed by the Certification Board for Radiology Practitioner Assistants (CBRPA) to provide primary health care services in medical imaging with physician supervision. Within the physician/RPA relationship and under the supervision, guidance and discretion of the supervising physician, RPA's exercise autonomy in decision making in the role of a primary health care provider with regard to patient assessment, patient management and in providing a broad range of medical imaging diagnostic and interventional services.

Position Responsibilities:

- The RPA will evaluate the day's schedule of procedures with the supervising physician and determine where his/her skills will be best utilized.

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- Provide a broad range of radiology health care services under the supervision of a licensed physician.

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- Assess and evaluate the physiologic and psychologic responsiveness of each patient.
- Participate in patient management, including prescriptive powers for imaging procedures.
- Administer intravenous medications or contrast media, under the supervision of a licensed physician and record documentation in medical records.

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- Perform fluoroscopic procedures, both dynamic and static.

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- Perform specialized imaging procedures, including invasive procedures, after demonstrating competency and under the supervision of a licensed physician

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- Evaluate and screen medical images for normal vs. abnormal and provide a technical report to the supervising licensed physician.

Perform procedures including, but not limited to the following:

- Ultrasound, Computed Tomography or Fluoroscopic guided biopsies
- Ultrasound, CT or Fluoroscopic drainages and drainage catheter placements
- Arthrograms
- Myelograms
- Pain management injections
- Arteriograms
- Venograms
- Venous Access Procedures
- Central Venous Line Placement
- Fistulagrams
- Gastrostomies

- Diagnostic x-rays when needed
- Stereotatic breast biopsy

New services I can provide

- Hysterosalpingogram
- Essure band placements
- Vertebraplasty
- Ultrasound guided liver biopsy
- Ultrasound guided paracentesis

Improve patient flow

With an addition of an RPA to the health care team, patient turn around times will decrease and patient interactions will increase, thereby improving the satisfaction of patients in the clinical setting. Respectfully educating patients and protecting their dignity provides great dividends for everyone involved.

Enhance patient efficiency

Major contributors for patient dissatisfaction are long wait times for exams, lack of communication and insensitivity to the patient's situation or needs. Being a physician extender in radiology the RPA can perform procedures and help manage patients. An RPA can improve patient interactions in pre and post proceduresessions. Because the RPA has more time to spend with the patients, improvement is enhanced in the quality and quantity of information obtained during a history and physical. An increase in time spent on post procedure follow-ups with patients and families also increase patient education and decrease post procedure complications.

Increase efficiency of radiologist's time

Having the physician extender spend more time with patient care and management allows the radiologist additional time to interpret radiographs (Mammogram,CT, MRI, Sonography, Nucelar Medicine, etc.). The RPA completes patient's history and physical exams, performing pre-procedure and post-procedures consultations, obtaining informed consent, set-up and conclude interventional procedures, and see patients during follow up examinations.

In addition to spending more time with patient care and management the RPA may also provide a technical report for the examinations she performs. By having the RPA functioning within the department productivity and efficiency will improve, thereby freeing the radiologist to spend more time on interpretation resulting in the increase of reimbursement revenue.