

The Current Status of Advanced Practice in Canada

September 10th, 2016

CAMRT



ACTRM

Advanced Practice in Canada

Advanced Practice in Medical Radiation Technology



A Canadian Framework

Core Principles of Advanced Practice

- Improving patient outcomes
- Critical thinking
- Complex decision making
- Autonomy of the role
- Leadership

Defining Advanced Practice in Canada

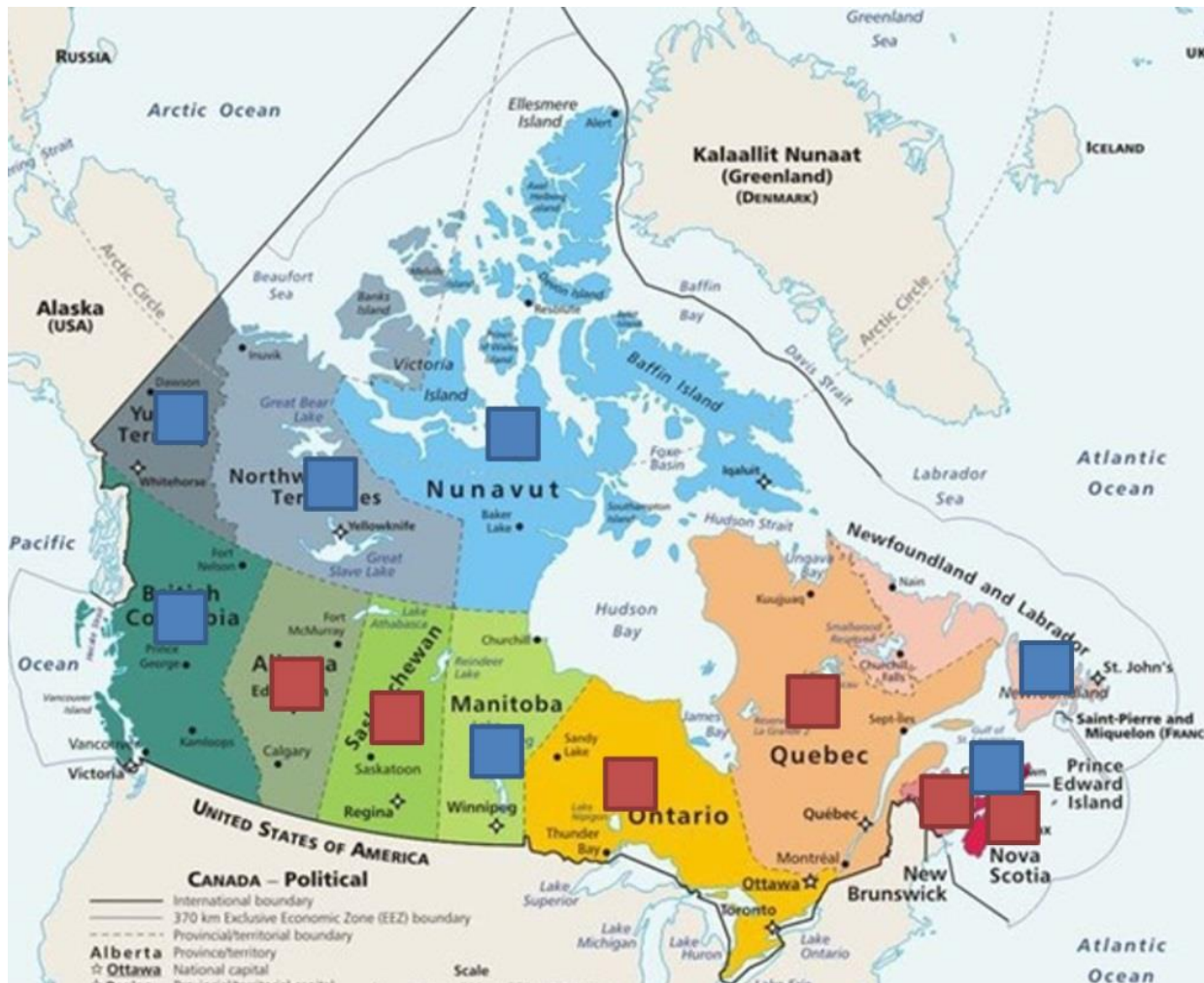
Advanced practice in Medical Radiation Technology is defined as a higher level of practice wherein clinical responsibilities routinely exceed the current principal expectations of practice. Advanced practice roles require analytical skills to synthesize evidence-based knowledge to autonomously work towards optimal patient outcomes.

The Advanced Practice MRT is able to practice in these roles due to their advanced clinical and theoretical knowledge, skill and judgment acquired through a relevant **graduate level education program or equivalent**.

Educational Preparation at Entry to Practice for MRTs

- National accreditation of education programs
- Diploma and degree programs
- National certification examination

Regulation of MRTs in Canada



Advanced Practice in Radiation Therapy



Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist Project

Cancer Care Ontario
Action Cancer Ontario

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Radiation Therapy Advanced Practice

The Ontario Radiation Therapy Advanced Practice (ORTAP) group was formed in 2003 by a group of Radiation Therapy practitioners, including managers and educators. Following an educational symposium in September 2003, which highlighted possible directions for advanced practice in the province, ORTAP began acting as an advocate to move the advanced practice initiative forward

Video: CSRT: An Innovative Model of Care

CSRT: An Innovative Model of Care



Current Stats for CSRTs

- 23 active CSRT roles
- 82% have completed or are engaged in a masters program
- 18% have not started a master program

CSRT Competency Profile

The profile outlines the core:

1. Clinical Competencies
2. Technical Competencies
3. Professional Competencies

Developing a National Certification Process for APRT



APRT Certification Process

- Worked with a psychometrician to ensure rigour (validity, reliability, feasibility) in the certification process
- Discussed and agreed on methods for candidate assessment
- Translated APRT competency profile into weighted assessments for blueprint:
 - Conducted national weighting survey (frequency and importance) for individual competencies and competency clusters
 - Held APRT Committee meeting to discuss survey results and agree on weighting guidelines for future certification process

APRT Certification Pilot Process: Three phase certification

PHASE 1

Portfolio

PHASE 2

**Submitted
Cases**

PHASE 3

**Structured
Cases**

**Portfolio
Defence**

APRT Certification Pilot Process: Study

- A study of the pilot process is being mapped out to look at (among other elements):
 - Quality of process, resources, scoring mechanisms and tools
 - Quality and clarity of the written guides
 - Need for all phases of the process
 - Overall timing for certification
 - Bottleneck points

Advanced Practice in Medical Imaging



Moving Forward...

- Focus groups
- Identifying and engaging champions
- Identifying the clinical need
- Creating job descriptions
- Creating a competency outline

Thank You!!!!

Volunteers



Cancer Care Ontario
Action Cancer Ontario



Canadian Association of Radiologists
L'Association canadienne des radiologistes

