



NBRCMRT Position Statement

Breast Ultrasound Examinations

1. Purpose

To clarify the New Brunswick Regulatory College of Medical Radiation Technologists' (NBRCMRT) expectations regarding the performance of breast ultrasound examinations by Radiologic Technologists in New Brunswick and to outline the conditions under which Radiological Technologists may perform breast ultrasound in circumstances where service delays would be contrary to the public interest.

2. Background

Although ultrasound is not a regulated profession in the province of New Brunswick, the application of ultrasound does fall within the recognized scope of practice of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

The College acknowledges that, in some regions, Radiological Technologists working in mammography departments may perform breast ultrasounds following mammographic findings or as a preliminary assessment of observed changes in breast tissue. From the College's perspective, this constitutes the practice of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

However, based on the practices of other MRT regulators across Canada, the College recognizes that this is a fairly common practice nationally, particularly in breast imaging settings.

3. College Position

To prevent significant delays in service delivery, which would be contrary to the public interest, the College takes the position that Radiological Technologists may perform Radiologist-supervised breast ultrasound examinations if all the following conditions are met by the Radiologic Technologist:

- (a) they have obtained certification in breast ultrasound from:
 - Sonography Canada;
 - the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS);
 - the Medical Technology Management Institute (MTMI); or
 - equivalent formal education and training in breast ultrasound consistent with national standards; and
- (b) they have demonstrated competence through on-the-job training, assessment, supervised practice, and employer validation;
- (c) they have the knowledge, skills, and judgement to perform the procedure;
- (d) they follow the Canadian Association of Radiologists' (CAR) Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards for Breast Imaging and Intervention;
- (e) they engage in applicable continuing education competency;



- (f) they have adequate professional liability insurance coverage for ultrasound duties;
- (g) the activity is supported by employer policies, clinical governance structures, and appropriate supervision models; and
- (h) that breast ultrasounds do not constitute the majority (more than 50%) of their practice.

If any of these conditions are not met, the Radiologic Technologists **must not** perform breast ultrasound examinations.

4. Radiologist Supervision

For the purposes of this Position Statement, Radiologist-supervised means that a Radiologist is present and available in the department while the breast ultrasound is being performed.

5. Use of Title

Radiological Technologists who perform breast ultrasound examinations under this Position Statement:

- are not authorized to use the protected title Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (DMS);
- may not hold themselves out as a DMS; and
- may not list sonography as one of their specialties of practice.

6. Competency Requirements

Competence in breast ultrasound includes, but is not limited to:

- Knowledge of breast anatomy, pathology, and sonographic appearance
- Operation of ultrasound equipment and optimization of imaging parameters
- Application of scanning protocols and quality assurance standards
- Recognition of abnormal findings and appropriate escalation pathways
- Infection prevention and control
- Documentation and communication of findings

Competency must be verifiable, current, and maintained through continuing education.

7. Liability and Insurance

Professional liability insurance for MRTs in New Brunswick is typically obtained directly by the registrant, most commonly through the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT). Because liability insurance is not administered by the employer, the NBRCMRT cannot confirm whether an individual MRT is covered for breast ultrasound duties.

MRTs are responsible for:

- Contacting their insurance provider to obtain written confirmation of coverage



- Ensuring their policy explicitly includes ultrasound-related activities
- Retaining documentation for audit or employer verification

Employers are responsible for ensuring that assigned duties fall within the Radiologic Technologist's authorized and insured scope of practice.

8. Professional Obligations

MRTs must:

- Practise only within their authorized scope and demonstrated competence
- Decline assignments for which they are not trained, competent, or insured
- Seek clarification when employer expectations conflict with regulatory requirements
- Prioritize patient safety and ethical practice at all times

If a Radiologic Technologist is asked to perform breast ultrasound examinations without adequate training, competence, or insurance coverage, they must notify their employer and, if necessary, the NBRCMRT.

9. Summary Position

The NBRCMRT's position is as follows:

- Breast ultrasound examinations are not automatically within the Radiologic Technologist's scope of practice unless they are trained, competent, and insured to perform such examinations.
- Radiologic Technologists must obtain written confirmation of professional liability insurance coverage from their insurance provider or the CAMRT before performing breast ultrasound duties.
- Employers must ensure that the Radiologic Technologists are properly trained, supported, and have appropriate professional liability insurance coverage before assigning breast ultrasound responsibilities.
- Radiologic Technologists are not to perform breast ultrasound examinations if any regulatory, competency, or insurance requirements are unmet.

This Position Statement supports safe, ethical, and accountable practice in New Brunswick.

Reference: Nova Scotia College of Medical and Imaging Radiation Therapy Professionals. Breast Ultrasounds-NSCMIRTP Position Statement. (2021). at [Position-Statement-on-Breast-Ultrasounds.pdf \(nscmirtp.ca\)](https://www.nscmirtp.ca/Position-Statement-on-Breast-Ultrasounds.pdf)