POLICY XXX: TECHNICAL STANDARDS/SKILLS POLICY/FORM

FOR ADMISSION TO AND RETENTION IN THE RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

This form must be read and signed by the applicant and the physician or NP performing the health assessment on the applicant.

- A candidate for the radiologic technology program must have abilities and skills to perform radiologic procedures in an independent manner that will not endanger other students, staff members, themselves, or the public, including patients.
- Clinical facilities have the right to deny any applicant or student who cannot perform the technical skills expected for the radiologic technology profession.
- Should an applicant be denied access to one clinical facility, the applicant cannot be assigned clinical apprenticeship or move forward to program student status. The program routinely rotates each student to many clinical facilities and the applicant or student cannot be located at only facility for the entire program due to the need to accomplish performance evaluations during program enrollment.
- To be considered, accepted, or to be retained in the program after acceptance, all applicants with or without accommodations must:

  Communication Skills: Possess sufficient skills to:

  - Provide verbal communication to and receive communication from patients, members of the healthcare team, and be able to assess care needs through the use of monitoring devices, stethoscopes, infusion pumps, fire alarms, audible exposure indicators, sphygmomanometers, etc.
  - Possess adequate hearing (i.e., ability to hear patients/patients family, instructions from physicians and other staff, alarms, medical equipment).
  - Provide communication effectively with patients/clients and other members of the health care team using all types of communication methods including verbal, nonverbal, and written techniques.

  Visual Acuity: Possess sufficient visual acuity to:

  - Interpret requisitions without assistance
  - Prepare contrast media and medications without assistance
  - Perform observation (listening, seeing, touching, and smelling) necessary for patient assessment and nursing procedures at a maximum distance from patient of seven feet
  - Ability to see within 20 inches and as far as 20 feet or more (corrective lenses acceptable)
  - Be able to distinguish 6 line pairs per millimeter on a radiographic test phantom to assure the ability to evaluate the diagnostic quality (resolution, distortion) of radiographic images produced

- Be able to distinguish tonal qualities of a radiographic image from black through shades of gray to white for assessment of contrast and density
- Accurately preform patient vital signs assessments
- Visual observation of a patient to include recognizing (near or far) a patient's condition and/or change in condition:
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Signs of a stroke
  - Pain
  - Dizzy
  - Sweaty
  - Hives/Reddening of the skin/neck
  - Pallor
  - Cyanosis: skin/lips/nail beds
  - IV line infiltrate/extravasation
  - Monitor and correct patient's compliance with breathing instructions
  - Monitor patient's compliance to hold still before and while an exposure is being made while standing behind the control panel or at a minimum of six from patient for portable exams

- Working in all patient environments of radiography (Trauma, surgery, ICU and IP/OP)
- Checking patients ID on wristband without moving patient's body parts
- Starting an IV visualizing the correct site and size needle
- Being able to safely maneuver wheelchair/stretcher in and out of room/hallways/elevators
- Being able to see bubble mirrors at a minimum distance of three feet in order to monitor traffic while transporting patients
- Seeing/reading the computer monitor and selecting the correct processes wit efficiency
- Being able to see IV's, 0_2 regulator, oxygen tubing, etc., while moving a patient
- Reading and explaining consent forms
- Reading isolation and warning signs
- Accurately reading blood pressure sphygmomanometers
- Being able to read drug vials correctly
- Ability to distinguish colors
- Being able to correctly draw ml (amount) of contrast media
- Performing independently with c-arm or portable unit and being able to visualize the body part while positioning.
- Using the laser light on a c-arm and seeing the monitor from a distance

- Preserving the sterile field
- Being able to read patients charts on computer and paper chart, to identify reason for exam, meds, etc.
- Positioning patient correctly in light or laser field and assuring patient remains in field after positioning patient, before exposure
- Being able to see the controls necessary to operate equipment while maintaining awareness of patient condition.

Gross and Fine Motor Skills: Possess gross and fine motors skills to:

- Manipulate a variety of radiographic equipment, position and lift patients/objects (up to fifty pounds)
- Reaching with both arms: up, down, side to side
- Operate adjunct instrumentation (wheelchairs/stretchers, IV poles/etc.: assisted and non-assisted)
- Perform other skills required in meeting the job performance needs of a radiologic technologist (including performing life saving measures, CPR, etc.)
- Be able to endure frequent standing, walking, sitting, bending, crawling, crouching, and lifting for long periods of time
- Operate both mobile and surgical imaging equipment and perform related radiological procedures
- Tolerate physically taxing workloads and standing for long periods of time

Mental Health and Attitudinal Skills: Possess effective mental health and attitudinal skills to:

- Function effectively during stressful situations
- Adapt to ever-changing environments and display flexibility when encountering new or usual situations.
- Be self-reliant and independently problem-solve
- Work effectively with all types of races, gender, sexual orientations, etc.
- Provide quality patient care to all patients.

It is the student's responsibility to discuss with program faculty any change of physical and/or mental health that would limit or prohibit the student from performing the technical job skills expected of a radiologic technologist; as described in the Technical Skills document during the program application and apprenticeship process.