INTRO: MEDICAL PHYSICIST ASSISTANTS
Per Halvorsen
2017 AAPM Annual Meeting

Session Outline

• Intro
• MPAs in Therapy - Ezzell
• Cautionary perspective - Fontenla
• MPAs in Imaging - Schueler

Regulatory environment

• Only 4 states have licensure to protect scope of work that can only be performed by LMPs
• Most states limit regulatory mandate for QMPs to initial machine commissioning and annual calibrations
• Accreditation programs do not mandate minimum physicist staffing levels
Precedents

- Radiologist assistants
- Non-physician practitioners – CNPs, PAs
- Nursing model – RNs, LPNs, CNAs

Radiologist Assistants

Radiologist Assistant Role Delineation

January 2005

Background
The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) is developing a certification program for a new level of imaging technology called the Radiologic Assistant (RA). A consensus statement developed by the American College of Radiology (ACR) and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) proposed that the R.A. is an advanced-level radiographer who works under the supervision of a radiologist to promote high standards of patient care by ensuring radiologists in the diagnostic imaging environment. Under radiologist supervision, the R.A. performs patient assessment, patient management, and selected clinical imaging procedures. Certification as an R.A. does not qualify the R.A. to perform interpretations (preliminary, final, or otherwise) of any radiological examination.

Nursing model

Joint Statement on Delegation
American Nurses Association (ANA) and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)

Introduction
There is more nursing to do than there are nurses to do it. Many nurses are allocated to the task in the current health care environment, necessitating teams of people working together and working with other health care professionals. Delegation is the process of assigning tasks to others when it is necessary to work effectively with negative personnel. The abilities to delegate, assign, and supervise are critical competencies for the 21st century nurse.

In 2005, both the American Nurses Association and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing adopted a paper on delegation. This paper was presented at the previous practice, delegation is an essential nursing skill. This joint statement was developed to support the practicing nurse in using delegation safely and effectively.
AAPM Board deliberations:

Acknowledge the likely trend toward delegation of tasks under proper supervision and proactively work to “shape” this trend – or continue to advocate for allowing only QMPs to perform the full scope of medical physics related tasks?

AAPM board directive

AAPM Professional Policy
MPPG 7: MPAs

• 14 members
• Equal imaging/therapy
• Diverse practice settings
• Diverse perspectives on MPAs

MPPG 7 deliberations

• Prescriptive (list of tasks), or defer to the local QMP’s professional judgment?
• Levels and nature of supervision – QMP on site?
• Define certain parts of medical physics Scope of Practice as “no go zones”?
• Ratios of MPAs to QMPs

MPPG 7 status

ON HOLD awaiting new QMP Scope of Practice document.

Excerpt from draft:
“...delegation does not absolve the QMP of legal, ethical or other professional responsibility for the quality of the medical physics practice. The delegated task is in all ways the responsibility of the QMP.”