COMP Perspectives on Scope of Practice, Ethics, and Liability for Medical Physicists in the Great White North

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Medical Physics Scope of Practice

- Equipment Selection
- Quality Control
- Facility Design & Shielding
- Acceptance Testing & Commissioning
- Computer Systems & Networking
- Radiation Safety
- Research & Development
- Technique Development
Levels of Professional Regulation

Licensure or Legal Regulation
- Legal permit required to practice

Certification
- Predetermined level of achievement/expertise
- Agreed upon minimum standards
- Maintenance of certification (MOC)

Registration
- Individuals ‘sign up’ with a regulator
- Often regulator will establish a Code of Ethics

Privilege
- Hospital/institution grants permission to perform professional activities
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COMP Scope of Practice for Certified MPs

Highlights

- Description of MPs
  - Clinical Service
  - Rad Safety
  - Research & Development
  - Teaching
  - Employment
- Education of MPs
- Defines QMP
- Duties/Responsibilities
- Accountability
- Commitment to QA
- Risk Mitigation
- Med Phys as Science
- Workplace Setting & Culture
- Liability & Insurance
- Regulation of MPs

Available
Physics Associates/Assistants

• Role is locally defined:
  • Routine QC measurements
  • Safe running of QC program
  • Assist w research, commissioning, procedures
  • Teaching students

• Responsibility for properly functioning linac: QMP
Core Competencies

• COMP PAC initiative with representation from CCPM

• align
  • Resident and student training
  • CCPM examination
  • Current clinical practice

clinical expert

scholar

collaborator

professional

leader

communicator
COMP (and CCPM) Code of Ethics

Friendly Neighbourhood COMP Member

University Code of Conduct

Employer Code of Ethics

Research Ethics Board

COMP Code of Ethics
Why COMP needs a Code of Ethics

• Demonstrates social responsibility of the organization
• Leadership for the profession
• Establish rules for behavior
• Groundwork for warnings or disciplinary action
COMP (and CCPM) Code of Ethics

- Current COMP code of ethics

- 1997
  - Bill Clinton beginning 2\textsuperscript{nd} term as president of USA
  - Jean Chrétien at the end of 1\textsuperscript{st} mandate as Canadian PM
  - Jeff Bezos just went public with a company he founded in his garage to sell books on the internet

Amazon Stock Price History

- July 1997 $2.29 USD
- June 2020 $2,478.40 USD

Source: Google Finance
COMP (and CCPM) Code of Ethics

- Revamp
- Align with TG-109 Report
  - Principles
  - Guidelines
  - Ethics in multiple sectors
  - Differ in complaint resolution
- Incorporate COMP Event Code of Conduct
- CCPM members are COMP members, *ipso facto* application
Legal Liability & Insurance in Canada

• Errors are rare, but do occur
• Lawsuits are rare, but do occur
• MPs are in positions of liability
• Most MPs work in hospitals
  • Work in your scope of employment
  • Act in the interest of your employer

• Private consultant/self-employed

→ Reasonable expectation of employer protection/insurance

→ Private liability insurance is recommended
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Subcommittees
- COMP Women’s Committee
- Physics Associates Committee
- Code of Ethics Work Group
- Professional Survey Work Group
- Staffing Model Work Group
- Core Competency Work Group