



Governance Report ★ July 2016

Submitted by: Patricia Willett & David LeClair
Governance Co-Chairs

The MSRT continually advocates for all Massachusetts technologists and a lot has been happening in Massachusetts during the past 3 months! We make every effort to monitor and respond to critical issues promptly. Please remember that we are volunteers members of the MSRT board. The MSRT does not have the financial resources to support hiring professional lobbyists to speak for us. It is imperative that **you** stay informed and respond quickly to our "Calls for Action". **We all need to work together to accomplish our goal of advocating for our profession and our patients.**

The Radiation Control Program (RCP) reports that the updates based upon testimony presented to the Department of Public Health (DPH) hearing on revisions to the 105 CMR 125, Radiologic Technologist Licensing regulations have been made and are awaiting scheduling on the Public Health Council PHC agenda. The next PHC meeting is scheduled for August 10th and we hope to have good news for you soon regarding these long awaited revisions soon.

On April 11th we became aware that the DPH had issued an Advisory Ruling (AR) related to Nurse Practitioners performing fluoroscopy. The Advisory Ruling does not require examination or licensing. Under current regulations, 105 CMR 405 (K) (9) NP's may operate fluoroscopy equipment only when acting as the first assistant in Cardiac Cath labs under the direct supervision of a qualified physician. **AR 0201** was very broadly interpreted by the Board of Registration in Nursing (BORN) to allow fluoroscopy to be performed by NP's without certification or licensing, not only in Cardiac Cath labs but in other areas as well. On April 27th MSRT representatives met with staff in the office of DPH Commissioner Bharel's office to discuss our opposition to AR 0201. Their verbal response during the meeting was favorable, indicating that they would suggest revision and clarification to include at least the same standards currently applied to PA's in 105 CMR 405 (K) (9). As of this writing we are waiting for follow-up. <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/hcq/dhpl/nursing/nursing-practice/advisory-rulings/first-assistant-in-cardiac-catheterization.html>

Currently in the Massachusetts legislature there are four bills, **S.1207, S.1163, H.1889 and H.1996**, related to the scope of practice of Nurse Practitioners and Certified Nurse Anesthetists. The language in these bills is very concerning and raises issues regarding the open ended authority that would be granted to Advance Practice Nurses. The legislative deadline for action on these bills was July 31st.

The MSRT has been collaborating with the ASRT and the Massachusetts Radiologic Society (MRS) and is actively lobbying against passage of these bills. We will keep you informed on any action.

On the National Level: H.R.4614 - Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act of 2016

This bill will recognize registered radiologist assistants and certified radiology practitioner assistants, collectively known as radiologist assistants, as non-physical providers of health care services by Medicare. H.R. 4614 authorizes physician reimbursement paid to the facility or supervising radiologist through the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for services performed by radiologist assistants in the states that have laws establishing RA guidelines. The bill currently has 35 cosponsors but none from Massachusetts! Please contact your representatives and ask them to sign on as a co-sponsor of this important legislations.

Veterans Affairs Regulatory Proposal

The MSRT and ASRT oppose the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs regulatory proposal that will allow certified nurse practitioners to perform, supervise and interpret laboratory and imaging studies when providing care for the nation's veterans. The deadline for comments on this proposal was July 25th. Be assured that if this regulation is approved there will be a significant impact on the ability of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to succeed in their efforts to encroach on radiology here in Massachusetts as well. Be sure to watch for updates and future calls to action.



New Hampshire



Senate Bill 330 that that creates licensure standards for radiographers, radiation therapists, nuclear medicine technologists, magnetic resonance technologists, radiologist assistants, limited x-ray machine operators and sonographers was signed into law on May 9th. The related regulations scheduled to take effect in January 2017 are currently being established by the NH Department of Radiological Health.

For more information, please visit:
<http://member.msrt-ma.org/advocacy/>