

The difference in Assistant and Supervising Radiographers

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Introduction

The Society of Radiographers in the UK represents the radiographic workforce. It's a trade union which represents the educational, public, workplace and professional interests of the members. The Society of Radiographers were founded in 1920, which today, serves as the biggest organisation of radiography in the world. The roles and responsibility of the assistant and supervising radiographer in the society of Radiographers have been distinguished, as both serve as different modalities in therapeutic and diagnostic radiography. To enhance the role and performance of supervising and assistant radiographers, multiple educational and training programs are conducted that help them to acquire new skills and vast knowledge. This knowledgeable framework ensures that the patient safety criteria and guidelines are met. This essay describes and evaluates the difference between the role and responsibility of assistant and supervising radiographers.

The difference of role in Assistant Radiographer and Supervising Radiographer

The role and responsibility of assistant radiographer and supervising radiographer differ widely in terms of job description and accountabilities during an episode of care. The role of the supervising radiographer is comparatively more liable and severe than assistant radiographer. Without the supervision of the registered radiographer, the assistant practitioner cannot perform the related procedure. The supervisor manages the monitoring of budgets, maintaining expenditures while the assistant radiographer particularly is in charge of performing the procedure. The assistant radiographer only acts upon the strategic plan and criteria set by the supervising radiographer according to the laws and regulation gave by the organisation. The supervising radiographer resolves issues related to radiology procedures, patients, radiology practitioner while the radiology assistant tries to abide by the action plan and regulations

provided by the supervising radiographer. The supervising radiographer maintains statistical report and records given by the assistant radiographer of the procedure conducted.

The responsibility of the assistant radiographer is to perform the clinical tasks keeping in view the protocols and necessary arrangements required for a certain test, under the supervision and direction of a registered practitioner. Assistant practitioner in radiotherapy assists in providing better care and services to the patient without compromising the quality and safety of the patient. The radiology assistant performs radiology screenings and evaluates image quality, pixel density, and initial and final image interpretations to the supervising radiographer. Under the guidelines of Society of Radiographers, it is the duty of the supervising radiographer to carry out the radiology processes and ensure its safety and assistant radiographer role in a certain procedure (Beardnire, Woznitza & Goodman, 2016). For proper supervision, it is necessary that designated supervisors are aware of their duty and assist the assistant practitioner in conducting correct procedures. The supervisor role is basically working in treatment and imaging rooms and provide immediate assistance and advice to the assistant practitioner.

The duties and roles of an assistant radiographer include excellent clinical governance in the radiology procedures. The first task is to explain the whole procedure briefly to the patient. Other roles include the exposure controls, safety techniques, patient positioning under the supervision of a senior radiologist. To be eligible to conduct these procedures, an assistant radiographer must have completed the required academic program with some experience in the clinical internship from the registered radiology programs recognised by ARRT (Palmer, Snaith & Harris, 2018). The assistant practitioners must act according to their level of competence and must not undertake and accept the task which is not authorised by the code of ethics and conduct.

Scholastic difference

Education Provisions for Assistant Radiographers

- Professionally accredited and developed S/NVQ 3 units, specially developed for mammography (Reiser & Milne, 2014).
- Learning units that provide work-place based training and education to meet particular service needs of the radiology patients in conjunction to local further and higher education systems accredited by the (COR) College of Radiographers (Borders, 2014).
- Higher qualifications like diplomas and certificates or preferably Foundation Degrees that provide relevant knowledge and information regarding the role and responsibilities of the assistance radiographer.

Education Provisions for Supervising Radiographers

- The supervising practitioner must have completed the Postgraduate training program in medical ultrasound with two years of clinical experience.
- They should be able to supervise others with their knowledgeable and vast skills in the profession.
- They should make sure that the procedures are conducted according to the safety guidelines provided by the British Medical Society of Ultrasound (Parker & Harrison, 2015).

It is the duty of the supervising radiographer to make sure that the assistant radiographer under the supervision competent and qualified enough to conduct the radiology procedure. If the assistant radiographer performs under the direct supervision of any registered practitioner or

facilitator then all the legal responsibility and accountability of the task will be on the supervising radiographer who will serve as the regulated and autonomous practitioner.

In indirect supervision, the supervising radiographer may not administer the task but delegates the procedure to the assistant. If the assistant radiographer, according to the supervisor, is incompetent to conduct any allocated task then it is the responsibility of the supervising radiographer to re-allocate the task or perform it personally. In this case, the supervising radiographer is directly responsible and accountable for the whole procedure. It is the duty of the assistant practitioner to inform their supervising radiographers of such situations and the possible outcomes of it (Borders, 2014). The supervising radiographer must make sure that the assistant radiographer is able to perform the task, takes responsibility for the task, well aware of the protocols and policies of the organisation.

The role and responsibility of the supervising radiographer are comparatively more diverse than the assistant radiographer. The supervising radiographer manages, monitors, trains, orients, assigns and schedules entire radiology procedures and the acquired data. While the role of the assistant radiographer is limited to conducting the procedure and educating the patient about the entire procedure. The assistant radiographer cannot interpret the image and cannot write up the comments regarding any image (Borders, 2014).

The supervising radiographer along with the assistant radiographer monitors the exposure of radioactive materials like radium and maintains a safe environment for the patients and radiology staff. The supervising radiographer with the consent of his fellow assistant practitioners coordinate the clinical rotations and arrange training and informative programs for the radiology staff.

Conclusion

The assistant and supervising radiographer's role and responsibility differ at many levels during an episode of care as the assistant performs the procedure while the supervisor adheres to the policies and regulations regarding the procedure and provide guidelines according to it while observing and supporting the work of assistant radiographer throughout the process. These two diverse radiological professions work in synchronisation in order to conduct radiological procedures by keeping the general and compulsory rules and regulations into consideration.

References

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