

CONTRAST MEDIA ADMINISTRATION AND AUTOMATIC INJECTOR SETUP BY RADIOGRAPHERS

Background

The Society of Radiographers of South Africa (SORSA) requested input from the Professional Board of Radiography and Clinical Technology (PBRCT) of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) on the matter of intravascular contrast medium administration by radiographers, inclusive of setting up of the automatic injector. This query was submitted to the PBRCT following numerous queries from members. The main points of the PBRCT's response on 31 May 2022 are below.

The following legislative and ethical conduct documents should be used as a reference to guide radiographers' practice in this regard.

- a. Regulations defining the scope of the profession of radiography
 - b. Scope of practice for diagnostic radiographers
 - c. Ethical rules as outlined in the ethical conduct booklets of the HPCSA and annexure 10 of these ethical rules
1. During a CT procedure Radiographers are NOT, according to the enabling framework, to cannulate and are NOT to administer contrast media.
 2. Section 1(3) of the Regulations defining the scope of the profession of Radiography articulates that the scope of Diagnostic Radiographers regarding imaging procedures involving medicines is limited to providing "...assistance to a radiologist or medical practitioner in the control and administration of contrast media or medicines as required for such diagnostic procedures."
 3. It is to be noted that the assistance Diagnostic Radiographers provide in diagnostic imaging involving contrast media does NOT involve cannulation. This aspect is clarified under the practice of Computer Tomography detailed on Scope of Practice for Diagnostic Radiographers that states that Diagnostic Radiographer are to "*produce cross-sectional images of the body but, may not cannulate or administer contrast media.*"
 4. The Board wish to further clarify that in line with Ethical Rule no. 21, "*a practitioner must perform, except in an emergency, only a professional act: for which he or she is adequately educated, trained and sufficiently experienced*".
 5. Section 16 of the Health Professions Act regulates the education, training and registrations for practitioners registered with the Health Professions Council (HPCSA) hereto referred as Council. Briefly, Section 16 states that practitioners are:
 - 5.1 to receive education and training that has been approved by the relevant Boards and;
 - 5.2 that such education and training must be obtained through educational institutions approved by Council.
 6. The education and training listed in 5 above does not include short courses and workshops on cannulation.
 7. It is also, worth noting that each practitioner will take liability for their professional acts and that no, radiologist can take liability for the professional acts of a Diagnostic Radiographer.