

Self-Regulation Fast Facts for Medical Radiation Technologists & Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

What is self-regulation of a profession?

*Self-regulation is based on the concept that members of a profession, based on their knowledge, skills and judgment, are best suited to govern their profession in the public interest. **Self-regulation is a privilege, not a right**, granted by the government on behalf of the public.*

Why is self-regulation important? Why does self-regulation matter?

Regulation provides assurance to the public that members of a College are highly educated health professionals who are accountable to a regulatory body for the quality of care they provide. Probably the most persuasive argument in favor of self-regulation is that a profession has evolved over time and developed a specialized body of knowledge which makes it increasingly difficult and expensive for the government to determine and monitor standards of practice for that profession. It is therefore thought that members of that profession are in the best position to set standards and evaluate whether those standards have been met.

Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technologists (MIRTT) & Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (DMS) understand their respective professions better than anyone else so it makes sense to have them self-regulated as long as they do so in the public interest. Self-regulation protects the public from unsafe, unethical or unauthorized practice. Most importantly, without self-regulation, public safety may be at risk. Another consideration is that other health professionals may be allowed to perform diagnostic and therapy duties currently performed by educated MIRTT's and sonographers. High quality work by professionals in our field promotes public trust.

What is a College and what will it provide us?

Colleges protect the public by implementing, administering and enforcing health care legislation:

- *Setting and enforcing standards and guidelines for the practice and conduct of their members.*
- *Making sure that regulated health professionals meet their training and educational standards before they can practice or use a professional title [i.e. MRT(R), MRT(NM), MRT(T), MRT(MR), DMS]*
- *Developing programs to help members continually improve their skills and knowledge, upholding the quality of care.*
- *Acting on concerns about their member's provision of health care with authority to sanction a member following a complaint*
- *Ensure that members remain current in their practice by meeting continuing education and currency hour criteria as set forth by the College*
- *Sets the standards and scope of practice for the profession as well as providing a code of ethics*

What is an MRIT? And MIRT?

Medical radiation technologists are used to being referred to as MRTs. As not all imaging modalities involve the use of radiation, and imaging is a small component in radiation therapy, the name was modified to be more encompassing of all disciplines. Medical Radiation and Imaging Technologists (MRIT) and Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technologists (MIRT). Both are the terms used by other provinces who have become regulated and included sonography under their college.

What is the difference between a College and an Association?

*Colleges are mandatory organizations that are delegated the authority to govern the practice of the members of a profession in the public interest. **The College's fundamental purpose is public protection.***

Associations are volunteer member-centric or member-oriented organizations that promote and advocate for the profession and support of the member.

What will happen to the Association once the College is formed?

The Association's purpose is to advocate for its members and therefore would be beneficial to MRTs once the College is formed. Under current legislation, MAMRT membership is required to work in Manitoba. The MAMRT provides members with concurrent membership with the CAMRT which provides MRTs in Manitoba with their Professional Liability Insurance (PLI). It would be beneficial to all MRTs that the Association remains once the College is formed.

What is the benefit of being a member of the association and what is its involvement in self-regulation?

An association issues credentials to eligible members, provides continuing education and member benefits. They provide their members with Professional Liability Insurance (PLI) which is specific to the profession and provided at an affordable rate. The association provides certificate programs as well as quick study courses, webinars and conferences at a discount to members to promote professional development.

The benefits of continuing education and PLI are invaluable to its members and are requirements to maintain registration with the college.

Professional associations also recognize members for the work they do above and beyond their job, offering reward programs for professionals and students.

Membership with the association is important - they are our voice for professional advocacy.

How much will it cost to be self-regulated?

It is difficult to estimate what the annual operating costs of the College will be at this time. The MAMRT has looked into other Canadian province's fees and used these as an example when providing information to membership. MRTs are regulated in seven other provinces, including

Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick & PEI. Manitoba is the last province to submit an application to the government to be self-regulated.

See Link: [Canadian Comparison Chart of Regulators & Associations for Medical Radiation & Imaging Technologists](#)

Will members of a self-regulating College be subject to a disciplinary process?

A College comprising MRTs and Sonographer's would be required to receive and investigate complaints against registered members and initiate appropriate action to ensure the public is protected. Complaints would be considered by an Investigations Committee as defined within the legislation, composed of registered members of the College and one or more public representatives. All investigations would follow a well-defined and transparent process designed to ensure fairness and accountability.

Would Continuing Education (CE) be controlled by a self-regulating College?

A self-regulating College is NOT an educational institution. A regulatory College is responsible to set standards for education, registration and practice, and to assist members in meeting those standards.

A self-regulated profession may, in accordance with the Regulated Health Professions Act, approve education programs and competency requirements that must be met by graduates applying for registration in the profession.

The Regulated Health Professions Act does require health professions to establish a continuing competency program to maintain the competence of their members and to enhance the practice of the profession.

All matters related to standards of practice and competency are subject to consultation with College members, Government and affected stakeholders.