

## The Face of Care: Medical Radiation Technologists

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Radiologic technologists (MRTs) provide a vital link between the advancement of technology and patient care. They are healthcare professionals dedicated to providing compassionate treatment for patients and are skilled in the use of critical high-tech equipment while working with physicians and other healthcare professionals.

With MRTs, patients benefit from advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies as well as high-quality imaging and radiation services.

MRTs have become the essential link between healthcare professionals and patients across Canada in hospitals, cancer clinics, and schools to take advantage of technologies such as magnetic resonance, nuclear medicine, radiological technology and radiation therapy.

### About Medical Radiation Technologists

Radiation technology has transformed medicine thanks to advances in medical science. More than a century of progress in the field has led to the development of sophisticated medical imaging and treatment technologies that have revolutionized the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

As technology develops at a rapid pace and regulations change, it is critical for medical radiation technology professionals, policy and decision-makers, and employers to understand what MRTs do for the broader healthcare community.

Radiation technologists (MRTs) specialize in four areas: radiology, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy or magnetic resonance imaging.

Each year, they contribute their expertise to the diagnosis and treatment of millions of Canadians. They are the face of care; the link between compassionate care and the most sophisticated imaging and therapeutic technologies. Patients benefit from the MRT's expertise in imaging and radiation therapy equipment, as well as their knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathology, image acquisition, treatment, and radiation protection.

## Key Aspects of the MRT Role

MRTs are responsible for providing safe, appropriate, tailored, timely, and resource-maximizing care. As such, they must possess certain core professional attributes to conduct their work safely and effectively.

**Patient-centred care:** An MRT is a professional who bridges the gap between humanity and sophisticated technology and does so with compassion and excellence. In order to achieve the best patient outcomes, MRTs work to respect and support patient rights (e.g., confidentiality) and needs, as well as to encourage patient participation. MRTs also play a vital role in collaborating with patients and their families. MRTs serve as the primary contact for patients on their healthcare journey, providing education and answering questions about procedures and treatments with the goal of increasing their understanding and alleviating anxiety.

**Interprofessional collaboration:** MRTs work closely with other healthcare professionals to serve patients with quality diagnostics and treatments. It is their responsibility to know and respect the role of all professionals involved in the collaborative process in order to ensure patients get the best possible care. In turn, many MRTs serve as experts in their field and help shape policy and decisions by educating other members of the collaborative care team about medical radiation technology.

**Continued education:** An MRT must have the requisite education, skills and judgement to function competently.

**Legal and ethical boundaries:** MRTs comply with regulatory requirements and practice according to a code of ethics and scope of practice. In addition, they abide by the procedures and policies of their facilities.

## Why MRTs Need Coverage

Professional liability insurance is essential for healthcare professionals for a number of reasons. In Canada's legal system, if a healthcare provider is alleged to have breached the standard of care for their profession and that breach caused damage, they are likely to be sued for damages. Legal defence is required if they are sued, regardless of whether they were negligent. This is one of the expenses covered by professional liability insurance. Unfortunately, some professionals ignore this necessity without realizing how expensive legal representation can be.

Without adequate insurance to obtain legal counsel, an MRT professional liability claim can be financially devastating. The cost of defending against these claims is on the rise, even for a frivolous allegation. A professional's inability to afford legal

counsel could even result in the loss of their job. In the event of a liability claim, MedThree's insurance program will protect your MRT clients.

## **The MedThree Advantage**

With specialized experience in the healthcare industry, MedThree Insurance Group can help by providing tailored policies for the healthcare and life sciences industries. Our healthcare practitioners' coverage options make it easy for brokers to find the right policy for their healthcare clients. Visit us at <https://medthreeinsurance.com> to learn more about our healthcare insurance products.

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Sources:

1. <https://www.camrt.ca/>