

CAMRT Position Statement

The Use of Advanced Practice Titles for Radiation Therapists in Canada

National Certification in Advanced Practice

Advanced Practice Registered Technologist (Radiation Therapy), or APRT(T), is the official professional title awarded by the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) to certified radiation therapists who have successfully completed the three-stage [CAMRT advanced practice certification process](#). The certification process is based on the APRT(T) competency profile, which is the nationally validated standard describing advanced radiation therapy practice in Canada.¹⁻³

The APRT(T) title confers certification to an individual radiation therapist, not to a role. Therefore, only those who have successfully completed the CAMRT advanced practice certification process are permitted to use the APRT(T) title or refer to themselves as a certified advanced practitioner in radiation therapy.⁴

There are other titles in Canada being used by radiation therapists who fill positions described by their employers as advanced practice, either with full or partial advanced duties. In many cases, the terms being used, such as Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (CSRT) which is historically associated with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care funded project that examined the development and implementation of advanced practice roles in radiation therapy in Ontario⁵⁻⁸, are used interchangeably in error.

It is appreciated that not all radiation therapists who are working to build an advanced practice role in radiation therapy will be certified APRT(T)s when developing or taking on a new position. These radiation therapists cannot use the APRT(T) title.

In many cases, radiation therapists new to an advanced practice role have the intention of obtaining advanced practice certification. To reflect this intent to pursue advanced practice certification, the CAMRT recommends the use of the title APRT(T)(candidate). The use of this term serves as a contract of intention between the RTT and their employer about the expectation that APRT(T) certification be achieved.

The APRT(T) title confers a certification that an individual radiation therapist has met the standards of a rigorous process. In general, the CAMRT recommends that employers work jointly with incumbent radiation therapists to establish an acceptable timeframe within which the new APRT(T)(candidate) would complete the national certification process. This timeframe will depend on the certification process requirements, the individual's experiences, skill level, other education and training, and may differ from one radiation therapist to another.

In clarifying the intent and use of the APRT(T) title, and suggesting strategies to facilitate the journey towards advanced radiation therapy practice, we hope to continue to build a standard and system-wide understanding of the APRT(T) title and enhance its uptake for the benefit of patients across Canada.

Positions

- Advanced Practice Registered Technologist (Radiation Therapy), or APRT(T), is the official recognized professional title for advanced practitioners in radiation therapy in Canada. It is awarded by the CAMRT to radiation therapists who have successfully completed the CAMRT advanced practice certification process.
- Other titles used by radiation therapists in Canada to describe advanced practice are the names for roles with advanced practice duties, and do not in themselves confer certification of competency in advanced practice
- The title APRT(T)(candidate) should be used by radiation therapists actively pursuing CAMRT advanced practice certification.
 - The RTT must have submitted a Declaration of Interest to the APRT(T) certification process and received approval to begin their certification process.
 - Should a candidate leave the certification process for any reason, the radiation therapist should no longer use the APRT(T)(candidate) title.

Recommendations for Implementation

To support employers and employees alike, CAMRT recommends employers use APRT(T) in job titles (e.g., Advanced Practice Radiation Therapist) to ensure that the position aligns with certification requirements per job, for historical and current positions.

For individuals who are entering the APRT(T) certification process during a position, employers should work jointly with incumbent radiation therapists to establish an acceptable time frame within which the new APRT(T)(candidate) should complete the national certification process. Should a candidate leave the certification process for any reason, the radiation therapist should no longer use the APRT(T)(candidate) title.

Acknowledgments

Over the past 15 years, we have garnered a better understanding of advanced practice duties versus complete advanced practice roles, as well as the value of APRT(T) certification for enhancing and promoting the expansion of scopes of practice ([see reference library of advanced practice articles and research](#)). The CAMRT would like to acknowledge the pivotal funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, support from Cancer Care Ontario, and the hard work and commitment of the CSRT and APRT(T) trailblazers, in propelling the evolution of advanced practice in radiation therapy.

Contact and Information

For further information regarding this CAMRT position, please contact professionalpractice@camrt.ca.

Documentation regarding the APRT(T) certification process can be found on the [CAMRT website](#). CAMRT's [Advanced Practice Framework](#) and a relevant [toolkit to create and implement an APRT\(T\) role](#) are also available.

References

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