

Advanced Practice Radiation Therapist (APRT) International Community of Practice (iCoP) Terms of Reference

Background

The role of the Advanced Practice Radiation Therapist (APRT) has been introduced and established by several countries around the world. APRTs are part of a novel model of care for the cancer patient population, and consequently, it is important to foster international knowledge sharing amongst the different countries where APRTs practice, and a culture of continuous quality improvement within the APRT community. The APRT Community of Practice (APRT iCoP) was formed to facilitate knowledge exchange and drive quality initiatives forward to ensure that patients who interact with APRTs globally are receiving the highest quality of care. The development of a community of practice (CoP) for APRTs involved in the cancer patients' pathway is a feasible and effective approach to enable their practice and to ensure APRTs continue to be an important part of cancer centres around the world and their delivery of high-quality radiotherapy care to patients.

Purpose

- a) To advance the concept of advanced practice radiation therapy globally by increasing the fidelity of research methods and evidence
- b) To facilitate knowledge exchange between APRTs and to drive forward quality improvement initiatives to ensure that the field of advanced practice in radiation therapy delivers the highest quality of care to patients.
- c) To generate and disseminate new knowledge in advanced practice radiation therapy
- d) To build relationships and form an international community of advanced practitioners in radiation therapy.
- e) To advocate for advanced practice in the profession of radiation therapy both locally and internationally.

Objectives

1. Advocacy – Work with our external stakeholders to affirm and promote role identity to influence increasing utilization in cancer care system

- Continuous collection and dissemination of data to support the positive impact of the APRT positions and promote sustainability of the associated model of care
- Monitor practice trends to ensure that the APRT-facilitated model of care is included in discussions and plans for the most effective and efficient radiotherapy
- Communication with relevant stakeholders including local, regional, national and international partners and influencers

2. Collaboration – Provide an accessible mechanism for sharing knowledge, advancing the role, and providing mentorship

- Provide opportunities/forum for sharing best practices amongst APRTs and international communities
- Support an environment that identifies opportunities for international collaboration and enhances the rigor of findings/research results
- Share lessons learned (i.e. developing relationships, change management, overcoming barriers, establishing framework, etc.) across a range of forums

- Collect and share tools and processes to assist new/developing APRTs
- Identify quality improvement initiatives in the area of advanced practice to improve processes and standards of practice
- Liaise with external stakeholders (as required) to provide insight around Health System Funding Reform activities

Membership

The APRT iCoP consists of voluntary APRTs from the international community. The APRT iCoP also accepts Affiliate members, who may be interested in attending a specific meeting and/or being included on the distribution list. Affiliate members may be those professionals in the field of radiation oncology/radiation therapy that share the same vision as the APRT iCoP in promoting advanced practice radiation therapists.

Process to Alter Group Membership

As the APRT iCoP consists of volunteers, CSRTs who wish to join the group can contact Nicole Harnett (nicole.harnett@rmp.uhn.ca) or Natalie Rozanec (nrozanec@southlakeregional.org) in order to be added to the membership list. Any APRTs who wish to opt out of the group can also contact Nicole/Natalie at the above stated emails in order to be removed from the membership list.

Meeting Schedule

- Participate in teleconference or web-conference meetings, as scheduled
- Review and provide feedback on relevant documents circulated electronically between meetings

Initiative/Working Group-specific:

- Participate in the identification and prioritization of various working group initiatives
- Participate in teleconference or web-conference meetings with initiative-specific working groups, as scheduled by the Group Leads