

February 7, 2011

ATTENTION MEDICAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGISTS
IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING
THE OAR'S CBMD PROGRAM AND ITS ADT DESIGNATION

The confusion caused by the recent OAMRT notice to Ontario MRTs regarding the Accredited Densitometry Technologist (ADT) designation offered by the Ontario Association of Radiologists (OAR) is unfortunate.

The ADT is recognized and will continue to be recognized as an integral element of the OAR's CBMD Facility Accreditation Program, which is recognized as a gold standard for BMD site accreditation.

Ironically, the OAR approached the OAMRT more than 18 months ago to collaborate on the development of an ADT-type program and received assurances that the organization wanted to work with us. Promises by the OAMRT to meet with the OAR and to share materials being developed were never fulfilled. With mounting pressure from both radiologists and technologists for us to fill the educational gap caused by the closure of the CSCD program last year (which OAMRT and OAR recognized as a valid certification course), the OAR believed it should not delay and developed and launched the CBMD ADT program.

We trust that the following points will lend clarity to the situation and allay concerns you may have about the validity and use of the ADT designation offered by the OAR as part of the Canadian Bone Mineral Densitometry (CBMD) program.

The OAR developed the ADT for current and future BMD technologists. It is a designation that identifies for radiologists and other physicians reading BMD that the ADT technologist has met the high standards required by the CBMD Facility Accreditation Program.

The ADT is recognized by the CBMD and technologists are encouraged to seek the designation whether they are part of the CBMD now, or in the future because of the exceedingly high standards established by our program.

The CBMD Facility Accreditation Program sets the highest standard for BMD facility accreditation in North America in that it requires the ongoing involvement of the medical physicist in quality assurance and quality control. The highly developed CBMD program is unique and as such it demands a high standard of performance and a special designation in recognition of achieving this standard, for technologists performing BMD.

The ADT program offers highly specialized education and training oriented towards accreditation by a broad spectrum of BMD experts and specialists including medical physicists, medical radiation technologists who have specialized in BMD, and other physicians specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis.

Development of the ADT was the logical extension of the CBMD's primary mandate to ensure the highest standard of patient care through quality BMD services.

Four years ago, when the OAR started the CBMD program in partnership with Osteoporosis Canada (OC), no organization in Canada was providing ongoing BMD training and education for radiologists and technologists, and no program existed to improve the quality related to the delivery of DXA services.

The ADT program was introduced in 2010. This important CBMD program enhancement resulted in part from the CBMD commitment to continually improve training and review and enhance standards of operation relating to patient care, and in part from a request from the *Canadian Society of Clinical Densitometry* (CSCD). The CSCD advised the OAR that it would no longer be offering a technologist certification program. The CSCD asked us to help fill the educational gap.

This new program was also the result of concern expressed by many BMD technologists regarding expired and expiring designations, and the prohibitive cost of travelling to the US for alternative training.

Technologists asked the OAR for more hands-on BMD training and education because no other organization was offering such programming. The OAR empathized and recognized the need for a “made in Canada”, low-cost, high quality program to be developed and presented by BMD experts from across the country.

The OAR recognizes that technologists play a vital role in the accreditation process and deserve the opportunity to validate their competency. The ADT exam and ancillary assignment offers a way to provide this assessment.

The ADT program is offered to technologists on a voluntary basis. The response in late 2010 was overwhelmingly positive with more than 92% of the MRTs registered for the September CME program voluntarily electing to take the written examination and do the ancillary practical assignment.

Technologists who successfully complete the examination and practical assignment will receive the CBMD ADT's four-year designation. To maintain the designation, the OAR requires technologists to take ongoing BMD CME training (from any recognized institution including ongoing courses provided by the CBMD Program), or re-write the ADT exam. Other than the cost of the CBMD course, there is no fee for the ADT designation, nor is there any charge for writing the exam.

The OAR has offered eight BMD CME programs since it began the CBMD Program in 2007 and most have sold out months in advance with large numbers of technologists adding their names to wait lists for future courses. More than 750 technologists have participated in the past eight programs and well over 100 are pre-registered for the 2011 program currently under development. Technologists have told us they the CBMD and ADT courses because they provided timely, relevant high-quality content at a reasonable cost.

The OAR's CBMD activities have prompted other organizations, including the OAMRT to announce an interest in BMD programs. We view this as a positive development as more groups recognize the importance of doing high quality BMD in the same dedicated fashion as mammography. However, these programs, including OAMRT's, appear to be either still at the planning, or early implementation stage.

It is unfortunate that OAMRT chooses not to recognize the ADT, a credential developed and taught by a multi-disciplinary team of BMD experts from across Canada.

The OAR has not only briefed the OAMRT and other relevant organizations on our CBMD and ADT initiatives, but has also invited each organization to attend a major CBMD event as our guest.

The CAMRT has approved every course, covering a variety of modalities in addition to BMD, that we have submitted for MRT continuing education credits and has provided constructive and impartial advice on many matters relating to technologist education.

To our knowledge we have never misrepresented the position of any other organization with respect to whether it has endorsed the CBMD program.

Since 2007, OC has partnered with the OAR on the CBMD Facility Accreditation Program and has continuously supported the educational component of the CBMD Facility Accreditation Program.

The OAR has included a technologist education component in most of its CME programs, for a wide variety of modalities, at the request of radiologists who are interested in enhancing the training available for technologists. It will continue to do so.

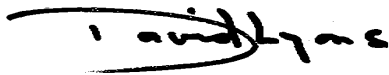
Radiologists participating in the CBMD facility accreditation program, and those considering facility accreditation, want their technologists to meet the high standards required for facility accreditation and strongly support the OAR ADT program.

We trust that this addresses the issues raised in the OAMRT notice and re-assures interested technologists of our ongoing commitment to BMD excellence and enhanced educational programming for both technologists and radiologists.

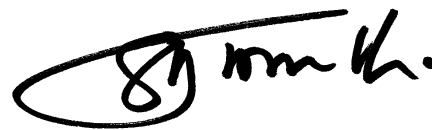
Radiologists and technologists alike should remain committed to the highest level of care for Ontario patients by continuing to improve the standard and delivery of BMD services through continued medical education.

Many MRTs have already expressed an interest in our next CBMD CME and ADT course. We encourage you to join us and well over 100 of your colleagues who are already pre-registered for the September 24th and 25th, 2011 CBMD CME and ADT course before both are sold out!

Sincerely,



David Lyons, MD, FRCPC
Chair, OAR CBMD Facility Accreditation Program



Giuseppe Tarulli, MD, FRCPC
OAR President