

Virginia Administrative Code

CHAPTER 101

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

Part VIII.

Standards of Professional Conduct

18VAC85-101-161. Confidentiality.

A practitioner shall not willfully or negligently breach the confidentiality between a practitioner and a patient. A breach of confidence that is required by applicable law or beyond the control of the practitioner shall not be considered negligent or willful.

18VAC85-101-162. Patient records.

A. Practitioners shall comply with provisions of § 32.1-127.1:03 related to the confidentiality and disclosure of patient records.

B. Practitioners shall properly manage patient records and shall maintain timely, accurate, legible and complete records.

C. Practitioners shall maintain a patient record in accordance with policies and procedures of the employing institution or entity.

18VAC85-101-163. Practitioner-patient communication.

A. Except as provided in § 32.1-127.1:03 F of the Code of Virginia, a practitioner shall accurately present information to a patient or his legally authorized representative in terms that are understandable and encourage participation in decisions regarding the patient's care.

B. A practitioner shall not deliberately make a false or misleading statement regarding the practitioner's skill or the efficacy or value of a medication, treatment, or procedure prescribed or directed by the practitioner in the treatment of any disease or condition.

C. A practitioner shall refer to or consult with other health care professionals, if so indicated.

D. Practitioners shall adhere to requirements of § 32.1-162.18 of the Code of Virginia for obtaining informed consent from patients prior to involving them as subjects in human research that affects their care.

18VAC85-101-164. Practitioner responsibility.

A practitioner shall not:

1. Perform procedures or techniques or provide interpretations that are outside the scope of his practice or for which he is not trained and individually competent;

2. Knowingly allow subordinates to jeopardize patient safety or provide patient care outside of the subordinate's scope of practice or their area of responsibility. Practitioners shall delegate patient care only to subordinates who are properly trained and supervised;

3. Engage in an egregious pattern of disruptive behavior or interaction in a health care setting that interferes with patient care or could reasonably be expected to adversely impact the quality of care rendered to a patient; or

4. Exploit the practitioner/patient relationship for personal gain.

B. Advocating for patient safety or improvement in patient care within a health care entity shall not constitute disruptive behavior provided the practitioner does not engage in behavior prohibited in A 3 of this section.

18VAC85-101-165. Sexual contact.

A. For purposes of §§ 54.1-2914 A 7 and 54.1-2914 A 14 of the Code of Virginia and this section, sexual contact includes, but is not limited to, sexual behavior or verbal or physical behavior which:

1. May reasonably be interpreted as intended for the sexual arousal or gratification of the practitioner, the patient, or both; or

2. May reasonably be interpreted as romantic involvement with a patient regardless of whether such involvement occurs in the professional setting or outside of it.

B. Sexual contact with a patient.

1. The determination of when a person is a patient for purposes of §54.1-2914 A 14 of the Code of Virginia is made on a case-by-case basis with consideration given to the nature, extent, and context of the professional relationship between the practitioner and the person. The fact that a person is not actively receiving treatment or professional services from a practitioner is not determinative of this issue. A person is presumed to remain a patient until the patient-practitioner relationship is terminated.

2. The consent to, initiation of, or participation in sexual behavior or involvement with a practitioner by a patient does not change the nature of the conduct nor negate the statutory prohibition.

C. Sexual contact between a practitioner and a former patient.

Sexual contact between a practitioner and a former patient after termination of the practitioner-patient relationship may still constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual contact is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge, or influence of emotions derived from the professional relationship.

D. Sexual contact between a practitioner and a key third party shall constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual contact is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge or influence derived from the professional relationship or if the contact has had or is likely to have an adverse effect on patient care. For purposes of this section, key third party of a patient shall mean: spouse or partner, parent or child, guardian, or legal representative of the patient.

E. Sexual contact between a practitioner and a supervisor and a trainee shall constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual contact is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge or influence derived from the professional relationship or if the contact has had or is likely to have an adverse effect on patient care.

18VAC85-101-166. Refusal to provide information.

A practitioner shall not willfully refuse to provide information or records as requested or required by the board or its representative pursuant to an investigation or to the enforcement of a statute or regulation.