MICs Group of Health Services

Matheson – Iroquois Falls – Cochrane

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Considering a Career in Health Care? There are plenty to choose from!

Medical Radiation Technologist (MRT) (<u>www.cmrito.org</u>)

An MRT is the qualified professional who uses radiation or electromagnetism to produce diagnostic images of a patient's body or who administers radiation to treat patients for certain medical conditions. **During 2 to 5 years of intensive education**, MRTs are trained to use sophisticated and complex imaging and radiation therapy equipment.

MRTs work within one of four specialties in medical radiation technology:

- Radiography is the use of x-rays to produce images of parts of the body on film or on computer screens. For example, mammograms, chest x-rays, barium enemas and CT scans.
- Radiation Therapy is the treatment of disease with radiation which involves the use of radiation to destroy diseased cells in the body; for example, cancer.
- Nuclear Medicine is the use of low-level radioactive substances which are injected, swallowed or inhaled to produce diagnostic images of how the body functions. For example, bone scans, cardiac stress testing and lung scans.
- Magnetic Resonance is the use of electromagnetism to produce diagnostic images. Magnetic resonance imaging procedures play a significant role in imaging the brain, spine, abdomen, pelvis and the musculoskeletal system.

Education Requirements:

Medical radiation technology programs typically require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent, which includes a grade 12 English credit. Additional requirements will vary, but will likely include assorted senior science and math credits. Radiation therapy program requirements vary; some programs require an OSSD with six grade 12 U or M courses (mainly math and science credits), while others require a minimum of one year of university education, including math and science credits.

In Ontario, this program is offered:

- Algonquin College, Ottawa
- Cambrian College, Sudbury
- Collège Boréal, Sudbury
- Confederation College, Thunder Bay

- Fanshawe College, London
- Mohawk College, Hamilton
- Queen's University, Kingston
- The Michener Institute, Toronto

Employment Opportunities –Radiation professionals can find employment in a number of medical venues, from hospitals and clinics to private radiology practices, research facilities and more. To increase employment value, **MRTs are urged to obtain their Ultrasound designation**. The Government of Canada predicted that employment growth in this occupation over the next few years would be sizeable as a result of the aging population.