

▶ Adapting to Future: EANM-TC Document on Competencies

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With the fast evolution of health care technologies it became evident that Technologists must keep up the pace with technological development. This is particularly true for Nuclear Medicine Technology. With the development of Radiopharmacy, Dosimetry and Clinical Advanced Practice there is a need to redefine the Technologists Competencies and be able to limit or extend them in order to facilitate a multidisciplinary teamwork and ensure the best clinical practice towards patients. At this moment the international bodies that officially recognise Nuclear Technologists as an independent Technologist specialisation acting on Europe are EANM and IAEA. It is therefore the responsibility of EANM, as a scientific body representing Nuclear Medicine Technologists, to elaborate state of the art documents that can be used by European peers.

It was with this spirit that the EANM Technologists Committee embraced the task to emit an official statement regarding the Nuclear Medicine Technologists Competencies. Keeping the core competencies in line with the original document written in 1998 and seeking a harmonization with partner Technologists specializations, specifically radiographers and radiotherapists, were the main criteria while defining the renewed Competencies Document.

The objective of this session is to present an introduction of the process involved in developing the updated Document on Competencies and to engage in a discussion with the audience, in particular regarding the variability observed in Nuclear Medicine Technology practice throughout Europe. It is clear that this presents a considerable challenge, having in mind that the educational paths to become a Nuclear Medicine Technologist in the European context vary from a vocational education to high school graduates. It is, however, clear that the end result of this path should be kept harmonised and standardised, in regards to quality, but at the same time sufficiently flexible to be supported by national legislations.

It is intended that the Document on Competencies becomes a reference in good practice of Nuclear Medicine Technology and also a basilar stone of the process of harmonising the specialisation internationally.

Suggested Reading:

1. Competencies for the European Nuclear Medicine Technologist. 1998. http://www.eanm.org/committees/technologist/tech_eurocom.pdf
2. EFRS Benchmark document for EQF level 6. 2014. (www.efrs.eu)
3. International Atomic Energy Agency: Nuclear medicine resources manual. 2006. IAEA, Vienna