

▶ Nuclear Medicine Technologists: European Qualification Framework Level 6 and Level 7

P. Frago Costa (Oldenburg)

The role of the Nuclear Medicine Technologist (NMT) is changing. It has been changing in the last decades and adapting to the always evolving technology field. The EANM-TC has worked with European partners and regional representatives, in order to achieve a harmonised and European definition of the NMT. For this purpose, the European Qualification Framework (EQF) was used following a number of items divided in Knowledge/Skill/Competencies (SKC). It was defined that the core competencies of a NMT were equivalent to the EQF 6, giving the possibility to progress to EQF 7 – advanced practice. The EQF level 7 of competencies can be achieved through a master's programme, but there is no European framework that recognises this level of competencies for Technologists, at the moment. There are, however, several countries that recognise this advanced practice and, given the proper education, NMT may be involved in tasks such as: Formal scan reporting, non-medical cardiac stress testing conduction, X-ray imaging, radionuclide therapy sessions or radiation protection advanced tasks. While it might be discussable for practitioners from different countries if one or the other task can be considered beyond the core competencies, it is fundamental for the discussion of advance practice, to identify those skills and practices that arise from the EQF level 7.

In this session, we intend to continue the on-going discussion on competencies from previous years and interactively engage in a debate with the auditory to reach a consensus on the setting up of the threshold between EQF level 6 and 7. Previous EANM publications on the subject will be presented, as to provide background information. Some advance practice models and examples will be proposed to the audience and colleagues practicing in the advanced domain are encouraged to share their professional profile.

References

- 1 Waterstram-Rich K, Hogg P, Testanera G, Medvedec H, Dennen SE, Knapp W, et al. Euro-American Discussion Document on Entry-Level and Advanced Practice in Nuclear Medicine. *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. 2011;39:240-8. doi:10.2967/jnmt.111.096354.
- 2 Pickett M. Advanced Practice in Nuclear Medicine: A Pathway to Clinical Leadership. *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. 2007;35:13A-4A.
- 3 Competencies for the European Nuclear Medicine Technologist. 1998. http://www.eanm.org/committees/technologist/tech_eurocom.pdf

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