



Scope of Practice for Neurodiagnostic Technology

During the course of the development of this Scope of Practice for Neurodiagnostic Technology, a period of public comment was opened. Membership and multiple stakeholder organizations responded and their comments were considered as the document was finalized.

Introduction:

The purpose of this document is to define the Scope of Practice for Neurodiagnostic providers and to specify their role as members of the health care team. This scope of practice document is governed by changes in patient care, and as education and technology expand.

The scope of practice defined in this document describes the breadth of practice within neurodiagnostic technology. The references listed provide detailed information. Levels of education, experience, skill and proficiency with respect to the activities identified vary among individual providers. A neurodiagnostic provider can, but does not typically, practice in all modalities of neurodiagnostics. Neurodiagnostic providers may advance their current level of practice by pursuing additional education and credentialing to meet the needs of their expanding role.

This scope of practice statement does not supersede state licensure laws or affect the interpretation or implementation of such laws, if they so exist. It may, however, serve as a model for the development or modification of licensure laws and it should serve as a concise outline of neurodiagnostic technology skill sets, experience and responsibilities.

Scope of Practice

Neurodiagnostic providers obtain physiologic data from the central and peripheral nervous system; analyze and report the results in a manner consistent with their training, education, experience and credentialing. These duties are performed under the direction of administrative and clinical leadership as defined by facility policies and procedures.

Neurodiagnostic procedures are performed in all areas of the hospital, including acute and critical care areas such as the operating room, intensive care units and the emergency department. Neurodiagnostic procedures are also performed in private clinics and the patients' home. Neurodiagnostic procedures include but are not limited to:

- Electroencephalography (EEG)
- Evoked Potentials (EP)
- Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS)
- Polysomnography/Sleep Technology
- Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring (IONM)
- Long Term Monitoring (LTM)
- Intensive Care Unit Continuous EEG monitoring (ICU/cEEG)

Neurodiagnostic competencies define the areas of specialty practice and were developed in part, by recommendations in the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS) Guidelines.

<http://www.acns.org>

The American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists (ASET) provides national competencies for the above listed neurodiagnostic procedures.

<http://www.aset.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3612>

Education, Training and Examination:

Formal Neurodiagnostic Education:

Many neurodiagnostic programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) with both seated and distance educational programs available. Primary neurodiagnostic education is offered through 1 and 2 year certificate or associate's degree programs.

<http://www.aset.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3405>

CAAHEP accredits PSG/Sleep programs, both stand-alone programs and those neurodiagnostic programs with a PSG/Sleep add on component, offering either a certificate or associates degree.

<http://www.caahep.org/Find-An-Accredited-Program/>

The Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) awards a Polysomnography Certificate as an elective add-on to Respiratory Therapy programs.

<http://www.coarc.com>

Bachelor's Degree Program: Bachelor degrees or higher levels of education promote the development of advanced skills and knowledge in this profession. To that end ASET appointed a Bachelor's Degree Task Force in 2007 to further support this goal.

<http://www.aset.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3716>

Continuing Education: Documentation of ongoing continuing education is a requirement to maintain technologist registry and certification. ASET is one resource for continuing education, offering a variety of educational products, a quarterly journal, webinars, and distance education as well as national and regional workshops.

www.aset.org

Examination: National organizations offer examination for registry and/or certification to demonstrate competence in all specialties of the profession.

<http://www.aset.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3481>

Current Levels of Practice in Neurodiagnostics

All neurodiagnostic practice levels must be in compliance with state law for health and safety code. All levels of practice must be in compliance with The Joint Commission (TJC) Standards for additional special procedures and with the policies and procedures of the facility. Facility specific competencies should be in place with documented annual competence for all practice levels.

All neurodiagnostic providers are educated, monitored and deemed competent according to facility policy regarding patient and medical staff safety, age specific criteria and procedure quality as appropriate for their facility and level of practice.

The American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists (ASET) includes practice level descriptions within the job description guidelines.

Handbook of Neurodiagnostic Job Descriptions and Competencies, ASET, Inc., Kansas City, MO (ISBN # 978-1-57797-075-0)