ASET Position Statement

SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR NEURODIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to define the Scope of Practice for neurodiagnostic technologists and to specify their role as members of the healthcare team following evidence-based outcomes and practice. The 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 neurodiagnostics. A technologist practices in one or neurodiagnostic modalities based on levels of education, experience, skill, credentialing, and proficiency. Neurodiagnostic technologists may advance their current level of practice by pursuing additional education, credentialing, and by crosstraining in other neurodiagnostic procedures to meet the needs of their expanding role. This Scope of Practice document does not supersede state licensure laws or affect the interpretation or implementation of such laws. 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 skill sets, experience, and responsibilities.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Neurodiagnostics is the allied health care profession that records, monitors, and analyzes nervous system function to promote the effective treatment of pathologic conditions. Technologists record electrical activity arising from the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves, and from somatosensory or motor nerve systems using a variety of techniques and instruments, and are responsible for generating technical reports. These duties are performed in a manner consistent with technologists' training, education, experience, and credentialing under the direction of administrative and clinical leadership as defined by facility policies and procedures.

Neurodiagnostic procedures include but are not limited to:
Electroencephalography (EEG)

- Evoked Potentials (EP)
- Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS)
- Polysomnography/Sleep Technology (PSG)
- Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring (IONM)
- Long Term EEG Monitoring (LTM)
    - LTM in Epilepsy (LTME)
    - Continuous EEG (cEEG)
    - Intensive Care Unit / Critical Care Continuous EEG Monitoring (ICU/CCEEG)
    - Ambulatory EEG (AEEG)
- Magnetoencephalography (MEG)
- Autonomic Function Testing

Neurodiagnostic competencies define the areas of specialty practice and were developed in part by recommendations found in the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS) Guidelines. *https://www.acns.org/practice/guidelines*

ASET – The Neurodiagnostic Society provides national competencies for the neurodiagnostic procedures listed above. *http://www.aset.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3612*

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CREDENTIALING

Formal Neurodiagnostic Education: Many neurodiagnostic programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Primary neurodiagnostic education is offered through certificates and/or degrees with 1- and 2- and 4-year options available. Neurodiagnostic education in both seated and distance learning environments are available.

Neurodiagnostic Programs

Bachelor degree or higher levels of education promote the development of advanced skills and knowledge in this profession.

Neurodiagnostic Schools

CAAHEP accredits neurodiagnostic programs with the following elective add-ons: EP, IONM, LTM, NCS and PSG, as well as stand-alone full programs in IONM. The Committee on Accreditation for Neurodiagnosttic Technology (CoA-NDT) and the Committee on Accreditation for Polysomnography (CoA-PSG) are the CAAHEP arms that review programs and make recommendations for CAAHEP accreditation.

- *CAAHEP Neurodiagnostic Technology Programs*
- *CoA-NDT*
- *CoA-PSG*

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

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

Credentialing Organizations

CURRENT LEVELS OF PRACTICE IN NEURODIAGNOSTICS

All Neurodiagnostic practice levels must be in compliance with state law for health and safety code, and in alignment with national regulation. 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 with documented annually for all practice levels.

Qualified neurodiagnostic technologists:

1. Are credentialed;
2. Have met minimum education and related educational and performance standards;
3. Meet continuing education requirements;
4. Perform within a code of ethics and defined scope of practice; perform under the direction of clinical leadership or a physician;
5. Are recognized by physicians, employers, the public, governmental agencies, payers and other health care professionals;
6. Form a national society whose activities include advocating for the profession and contributing to the advancement of knowledge in neuroscience.

ASET – The Neurodiagnostic Society includes practice level descriptions within the job description guidelines: *Handbook of Neurodiagnostic Job Descriptions and Competencies,* ASET – The Neurodiagnostic Society, Kansas City, MO (ISBN # 978-1-57797-075-0)

— *Approved by the ASET Board of Trustees, November 15, 2021*