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Date: Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 12:13 PM  
Subject: Regulating the Use of Fluoroscopy

Dear Member,

### **What is fluoroscopy?**

Fluoroscopy is a type of medical imaging that shows a continuous X-ray image on a monitor, much like an X-ray movie. During a fluoroscopy procedure, an X-ray beam is passed through the body. The image is transmitted to a monitor so the movement of a body part or of an instrument or contrast agent ("X-ray dye") through the body can be seen in detail.

The *X-Ray Safety Code (Ontario Regulation 543)* under the *Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act (HARP)* defines fluoroscopic x-ray machine and fluoroscopy as:

"fluoroscopic x-ray machine" means an x-ray machine, an image receptor and the equipment associated with the x-ray machine and the image receptor that is used in fluoroscopy;

"fluoroscopy" means a mode of x-ray exposure in which the image receptor and associated equipment produce and display a visible image that is viewed by the operator during or subsequent to the exposure;

### **Can College registrants perform fluoroscopy?**

Some, but not all registrants, can perform fluoroscopy.

HARP states that a member of the College who has been continuously registered as a chiropodist under the *Chiropody Act* and the *Chiropody Act, 1991* since before November 1, 1980, or who is a graduate of a four-year course of instruction in chiropody can do the following:

- Operate an x-ray machine for the irradiation of a human being.
- Prescribe the operation of an x-ray machine for the irradiation of a human being.

In other words, only registrants of the College who have been registered since before November 1, 1980, or who have four years of continuous education in chiropody, such as members who have a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM), are authorized to order or take X-rays and use fluoroscopy for imaging of the foot.

### **What are the consequences of performing fluoroscopy if I am not authorized under the legislation?**

It is an offence under HARP to contravene the Act or its regulations. Anyone found guilty of an offence is subject to:

- for a first offence, a fine of not more than \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than 12 months, or to both;

- for a subsequent offence, a fine of not more than \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than 12 months, or to both.

As well, it could be a breach of the College's Professional Misconduct regulation, in which case the Discipline Committee could order any one or more of the following, among other things:

- revocation of the member's certificate of registration;
- suspension of the member's certificate of registration;
- terms, conditions or limitations on the member's certificate of registration;
- oral reprimand;
- a fine of not more than \$35,000 to the Ministry of Finance.

### **What is the relevant legislation?**

[Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act](#)

[X-Ray Safety Code](#)

[Ontario Regulation 750/93, Professional Misconduct Regulation](#)

### **Who should I contact with questions about fluoroscopy?**

Please contact the College's Acting Practice Advisor with questions about scope of practice, or the College's standards, guidelines and policies: [practice@cocoo.on.ca](mailto:practice@cocoo.on.ca), or leave a message at: T: (416) 542-1333 or 1(877) 232-7653 Ex 230.