ASRT Practice Standards - Frequently Asked Questions

Verbal Orders

Can an R.T.:  
- Receive verbal orders?
- Receive telephonic orders?
- Record the orders in the patient's chart or electronic medical record?

Answer: The first step is to review ASRT's position statement on the subject:

Verbal and/or Telephone Orders
It is the position of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) that it is within the scope of practice of radiologic technologists to receive, relay and document verbal, facsimile, electronic and/or telephone orders in the patient's chart where federal or state law and/or institutional policy permit.

Adopted, Resolution 05-3.02, 2005
Amended, Resolution, C-07.36, 2007
Amended, Main Motion, C-09.26, 2009

The statement serves to indicate that receiving the order and recording the appropriate notation in the patient chart or electronic medical record is within scope of practice. Individual institutions may have specific guidelines concerning verbal order processing, including how soon after issuing the order should the ordering physician sign the order. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and The Joint Commission have each issued requirements pertaining to verbal orders and the means of processing the orders.