



# AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF RADIOGRAPHY

ABN 26 924 779 836

*The national professional organisation representing radiographers,  
radiation therapists and sonographers*

Registered Office:  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
32 Bedford Street  
Collingwood Vic 3066

## **GUIDELINES FOR RADIOGRAPHERS INVOLVED IN VENEPUNCTURE**

***Amended and approved by AIR Board of Directors  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2009***

### **Introduction**

It is accepted as current practice that radiographers in their role expansion are now undertaking venepuncture. This is most evident in the fields of CT and MRI with the intravenous injection of contrast media. The involvement of radiographers in venepuncture has the potential to benefit members of the public and the radiography profession.

The following guidelines are provided for radiographers undertaking venepuncture. It is important that radiographers recognise the important medico-legal and training requirements. The AIR recommends that venepuncture be included in the undergraduate curriculum for radiography training at all Australian universities.

*These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the AIR – Guidelines of Professional Conduct.*

### **Medico-Legal Implications**

Radiographers performing venepuncture must be adequately trained in the role expansion. Formal certification of a radiographer's clinical competence in venepuncture should only occur after a well defined clinical training programme endorsed by the employer.

There must be a written agreement between the radiographer and the employer. Venepuncture should only be performed by radiographers who are certified in writing by their employer as being competent in this clinical activity.

The formal certification of radiographers who choose to become involved in venepuncture, should be the responsibility of the employer and will not be automatically transferable to another employer.

There must be an agreed local scheme of work. The activity should be carried out under the supervision of an appropriately registered medical practitioner who is present on site for assistance during medical emergencies.

The activity should be limited to venepuncture associated with the injection of routinely used substances in medical imaging. eg. contrast media used in CT and MRI.

“Employers are required to provide members with written certification regarding competence and responsibility for venepuncture. This certification may be required to be produced for associated insurance claims. The AIR does not provide certification nor wishes to maintain a register of such certification”.

### **Currency of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification Requirements**

Radiographers performing venepuncture for the administration of intravenous contrast media must hold a current accredited Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or Basic Life Support (BLS) certification.



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## Education and Training

The AIR recommends that any training programme for venepuncture include the following topics:

- Relevant anatomy, physiology and pathology
- History and development of contrast medium
- Associated complications, adverse reactions
- Venous access, techniques and equipment including pressure injectors and in situ cannulae
- Universal precautions
- Demonstration, practice and evaluation
- Medical and legal implications

Following completion of the theoretical component of the course, it is recommended that radiographers complete a logbook of at least 10 supervised venous punctures.

Signed

David Collier  
Executive Officer