

MAHCP Career Profile

Cardiology Technologist

Submitted by

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According to the Canadian Society of Cardiology Technologists, cardiology technology involves the non-invasive testing and monitoring of the functioning of the human heart under various conditions and to provide basic patient care during these procedures.

Registered members may be employed in the field of Cardiology by assisting and performing duties in:

- Electrocardiography
- Exercise Tolerance Testing
- Ambulatory Monitoring
- Pacemaker Technology
- Cardiac Ultrasound
- Invasive Cardiac Procedures

(Duties may vary from province to province.)

Cardiology Technologists work mainly in hospitals and clinics but may also work as educators, in research, as Critical Equipment specialists or for sales and service companies as Clinical Specialists.

Affiliated with the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS) the Canadian Society of Cardiology Technologists (CSCT) is a non-profit organization established to raise the standard of practice, level of competence and the quality of patient care in Canada.

It is a self-governing body that admits and revokes membership and requires members to maintain professional standards by participating in a mandatory Continuing Education Unit (CEU) system.

The CSCT was founded in 1970 and will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The CSCT has approximately 1400 members across Canada.

In Manitoba, the Manitoba Association of Cardiology Technologists (MACT), which is also a self-governing body, works to maintain the education and membership in Manitoba. The MACT was founded in 1963 and has about 130 members.

To become a Cardiology Technologist you must be a

graduate of a CSCT approved program and pass the CSCT Registration Exam. There are several programs across Canada including BCIT, CDI, and Mohawk College. The programs are based on a National Occupational Competency Profile (NOCP) which has recently been revised to reflect an ever expanding profession and in turn an expanding educational program. Manitoba implemented a Cardiology Technician program at Red River College (RRC) which ran from 2006-2008 and graduated 29 students. Four Cardiology Technologists from Winnipeg were hired by RRC as instructors for the program. The RRC program is currently under review. Many of these graduates were successful in passing the CSCT Registration Exam and are now Registered Cardiology Technologists. Unfortunately many of these new Cardiology Technologists are under-employed in Manitoba, but with many of the current Cardiology Technologists approaching retirement this should not be

an issue in the foreseeable future. Also, as the population ages, the demand for Cardiology Technologists will grow as the need for services increase.

Advancing technology has allowed Cardiology Technologists to do their jobs with more ease but there are downfalls to this. The electrocardiograph (ECG machine) has become more "user friendly" which has

given some employers in the community hospitals the impression that other professions can operate the equipment and do not need specific qualifications.

The quality and accuracy of the diagnostic test depends on the operator's knowledge and skills in electrocardiography.

Only Cardiology Technologists have the expertise to provide accurate results and initial interpretation to a physician for use in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac disease.

To review earlier articles related to EKG please see www.mahcp.ca:

1. Newsletter March 2009 – *President's Report EKG A Dangerous Precedent*
2. Newsletter March 2009 – *Members Express Their Frustration*



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