



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

ORDERING CHEST X-RAYS

Practice FAQs

April 2017

QUESTION

Can an RRT order a chest x-ray?

ANSWER

RRTs do not have the authority to order tests or procedures. However, an RRT can implement a physician-authorized medical directive for a chest x-ray order – provided respiratory therapists are listed in the directive as an implementer or co-implementer. A properly constructed medical directive should stipulate the specific patient/client conditions that must be met before the chest x-ray is ordered, as well as any additional certification or education the implementer must have (e.g., completion of an organizational training program).

The resources below provide additional information on medical directives:

[CRTO Medical Directives and the Ordering of Controlled Acts Position Statement](#)

[Federation of Health Regulatory College of Ontario – Medical Directives & Delegation Templates](#)