



College of Respiratory  
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes  
respiratoires de l'Ontario

# PERFORMING ULTRASOUND GUIDED LINE INSERTION

Practice FAQs

September 2018

## QUESTION

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*I heard that starting in 2019, RRTs will need delegation to perform ultrasound for guided arterial line insertion. What do I need to do to ensure that I can still use ultrasound in my practice?*

## ANSWER

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Yes - as of January 1, 2019, Respiratory Therapists (RTs) who wish to use ultrasound in their practice (e.g., for guided arterial line insertions) will require delegation. Therefore, 2 things are needed to continue using ultrasound in your practice:

1. An order
  - As outlined in the [CRTO Orders for Medical Care Professional Practice Guideline \(PPG\)](#) (pp. 10 – 11) & the [CRTO Position Statement on Medical Directives](#), there are 2 types of orders:
    - i. A direct order (naming an individual patient)
    - ii. A medical directive (for a broad group/type of patient)
2. Delegation
  - As outlined in the [CRTO Delegation PPG](#), delegation is the transfer of legal authority from a profession who has the authority (e.g., a physician) to someone who does not (in this case, an RRT or group of RRTs).

The Federation of Health Regulatory Colleges of Ontario (FHRCO) has additional information on these processes, as well as [templates](#) that combine a medical directive with a delegation document.