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Radiology Tech Jobs: Is This The Career For You?

By Rita Henry

Have you ever gone to a hospital or clinic and received an X-ray? If so, the person who helped

prepare you for the procedure was a radiology tech. Radiology technologists obtain the images used by physicians to diagnose and treat internal diseases. There are various types of radiology tech jobs available today for those who are trained in this specialized field of medicine.

Radiology tech jobs can be broken down into four major categories. Each one requires a certain amount of medical training, usually including a two or four-year bachelor's or associate's degree in the science of radiology. If you're interested in pursuing this career or just looking for some more information about it, the following is sure to help.

Radiographers

Radiographers, also referred to as radiologic technicians, perform the procedures that obtain X-rays needed by the physician. Radiographers prepare the patient for the X-ray procedure, set up the area with lead shields, and prepare the X-ray beam. They are also responsible for developing the resulting X-ray film. Radiographers generally work under the physician's orders. A major part of their job involves ensuring safe conditions, as X-rays are hazardous if not handled correctly.

Radiographers should expect to work closely with the patients. Their job includes prepping the patient for the procedure and explaining any questions that may arise both before and after the X-ray is given.

Sonographers

For this type of radiology tech job, you will be expected to produce images using high-frequency sound waves instead of X-rays. While this procedure is designed for the same purpose as an X-ray, it is an entirely different process and requires a special form of training all its own.

Sonographers use a transducer to scan the patient's body, watching for results on a connected screen that shows them the result of the sound waves transmitting through the body. Irregularities or other visual cues in the pattern of sound waves will clue them in to certain diseases or unhealthy conditions

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that may exist.

Sonographers work closely with physicians in diagnosing illnesses. Those already in the medical field may receive sonography training at a hospital; students can also get a degree in sonography from a two or four-year college.

Nuclear Medicine Technologists

For a radiology tech job specializing in nuclear medicine, the applicant should be prepared to work carefully under demanding conditions. Some of the materials used in nuclear medicine are particularly dangerous, and the individual must be well-trained in order to handle them correctly.

In nuclear medicine, unstable atoms that emit radiation can be used to diagnose certain diseases in

patients. These radiopharmaceuticals are given to patients, often by injection, by nuclear medicine technologists. The technologist then monitors the body functions with a camera, and notes areas where radioactivity may concentrate to indicate an abnormality or disease.

Radiation Therapists

Radiation therapy is a different form of radiology tech job in that it specializes in treating, not just detecting, illnesses. Radiation therapists give patients chemotherapy and other forms of radiology treatment to help treat cancer. They work closely with the patient and physician to bring the patient back to health and attempt to beat the disease.

Regardless of what type of radiology tech job interests you, you're likely to find an excellent job market with good pay and benefits. A shortage of professionals in these areas has resulted in high demand for those with a two to four year degree in any form of radiology tech. If you're considering a radiology tech job for your future, you've got a good chance of landing an excellent career in a rapidly advancing medical field.

Rita Henry is a contributing editor for Jobs In Radiology, the leading job and resource site for the Radiology Industry. Interested in receiving only the hottest Radiology job listings weekly for free? To learn more visit

<http://www.jobs-in-radiology.com>

See The World With Travel Jobs In Radiology

By Rita Henry

The medical field is advancing quickly, and some hospitals are feeling the pull. With a shortage of technicians hitting many health care facilities, the need for those with a background in radiology is increasing. That's why the idea of traveling radiology jobs is becoming more popular. With fewer

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technicians onsite that know how to handle aspects of radiology care, hospitals are asking the techs to come to them. And the demand for these trained individuals is growing every day.

If you're interested in a radiology job, chances are good you may be asked to travel. Many radiologists love the idea of going where they are most needed, and the chance to see the country while performing their jobs is a great benefit.

While the idea of radiology jobs based on travel certainly isn't an ideal solution, it is a quick and efficient way to make sure everyone gets the care they need regardless of where they're located.

So how does it work? Typically, a technologist who is willing to travel will be employed by an agency. The agency will put the tech in contact with various facilities, and the tech will sign a temporary contract with a hospital or clinic. The usual length of a contract with a radiologist on a travel basis is three months. The employee will be bussed or driven to the hospital location. All expenses for the tech are generally paid for by the hospital, and equipment is supplied on the premises.

For a radiology job involving travel, the tech may have to adjust to several factors all working at once to create a constantly changing work environment. Often, hospitals will have varying procedures and different types of equipment, so there's little knowing what to expect until the tenure at the temporary location actually begins.

Physicians and other technologists tend to have a great deal of respect for those with radiology travel jobs. The fact is that the traveling techs need to be more adaptive to their surroundings, and they need to know their job well enough to handle it under various— sometimes hectic— conditions. The traveling techs also have the advantage of being exposed to various ways of doing things, and may have access to more current methods and information than those techs employed at just one hospital.

If you ask a hospital staff, they'll tell you that they will avoid using traveling radiology techs whenever possible, just because of the problems that can arise. If the tech is delayed, for example, patients might be forced to miss a crucial X-ray or treatment. It's a lot to gamble on. Eventually, most hospitals hope to hire their own in-house techs, and at that time the demand for those willing to do radiology travel jobs will probably decrease.

In the meantime, however, there is a rising demand for this type of technician. If you're interested in a radiology travel job, now may be the best time to get involved.

As a traveling radiology tech, you will receive full health insurance and benefits, and be considered a full-time employee by the agency that handles your dispatches. The agency will set up contacts with hospitals in the areas where you are willing to travel. Often the agency and various hospitals will have connections, so that the same techs may return to the same hospitals time and again. Over time, relationships develop between the travel techs and the clinics they visit, and both learn to count on

each other to perform their jobs correctly.

At this time, there are about 900 radiology travel job agencies in the United States.

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