

# RCIS PREFERRED...

## 4 MYTHS ABOUT RCIS CERTIFICATION

**1 RCIS education in radiology is substandard. *Specific does not mean sub-standard.*** The RCIS credential certifies a comprehensive understanding of Cath Lab radiological procedures and safety. In comparison, radiologic technicians certified by ARRT have a deep knowledge base of radiology and radiation safety in many disciplines, which makes them valuable members of any health care team utilizing radiation. But this also means a **majority** of their education is simply **not applicable in the Cath Lab.**

**2 RCIS is a post-primary pathway. *RCIS is only a post-primary pathway for radiologic technicians that want to work in the Cath Lab.*** The truth is, basic certification in radiography requires no knowledge of Cath Lab procedures. That's why most hospitals in California list Cath Lab positions for radiological technicians with the tag, "**RCIS preferred.**" RCIS certification is a primary pathway for technicians who **ONLY** want to be qualified to work in the Cath Lab, a discipline with a deep and specific knowledge base that radiologic technicians with the basic credential RT (R) **do not have.**

Unfortunately, RCISs with specific knowledge of Cath Lab procedures, technology and management are being pushed out of Cath Labs in California because it is illegal for them to conduct procedures with radiation **for which they have been trained.** This leaves a deep knowledge gap in the Cath Lab team that hospitals are trying to account for by **asking their RTs to be RCIS or ARRT-CI certified.** This may not seem like an issue, but at last census, only 42 RTs in the state of California had cardiac-specific credentials.

**3 Allowing RCIS personnel to conduct fluoroscopy is "de-regulation" of a dangerous procedure. *Conducting fluoroscopy requires separate licensing with a separate exam.*** The regulation of fluoroscopy as it exists in California requires a specific fluoroscopy permit issued after passing a detailed exam. RCIS professionals in California are not asking to be exempt from the exam, they're simply asking to be **allowed to take it.**

**4 RCIS jobs are obsolete. *The RCIS credential requires a deep and specific knowledge base that RTs and even cardiac RNs do not have, so they are integral members of any Cath Lab team.*** Here's the list of specific knowledge foundations RCIS personnel have that neither RTs nor RNs do: *cardiovascular diagnostic procedures; cardiovascular interventional procedures; hemodynamic recognition & recording; recognition & response to cardiovascular complications & emergencies during cath lab procedures; and CV congenital anomalies & treatment.* Providing quality care in the Cath Lab **requires** RCIS personnel---a fact that hospitals have recognized even if state regulators have not.