



American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers

51 Monroe Street ● Plaza East One ● Rockville, Maryland 20850-2400

Phone: (301) 738-8401 ● Toll-free: (800) 541-9754 ● Fax: (301) 738-0312 ● Web: www.ardms.org

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Dana Murphy

Phone: (301) 738-8401, ext. 221

E-mail: murphy@ardms.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JCAHPO Purchases ARDMS ROUB Credentialing Program and RDMS Ophthalmology Specialty Question Pool

(ROCKVILLE, MD, June 21, 2004) – The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers ® (ARDMS®) and the Joint Commission of Allied Health Professionals in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO®) announced a formal agreement whereby JCAHPO will purchase the Registered Ophthalmologic Ultrasound Biometrist (ROUB) credentialing program from ARDMS.

JCAHPO will acquire all ROUB examination questions; business rules, Registrant data; and the credential name, Registered Ultrasound Ophthalmologist Biometrist and its abbreviation, ROUB. JCAHPO will also purchase the ARDMS Ophthalmology RDMS specialty examination item pool (examination questions).

This agreement is effective immediately.

ARDMS will continue to maintain and update the CME records for ROUB Registrants until late 2004, when JCAHPO has its complete ROUB system in place. However, ARDMS will no longer process applications or deliver examinations for the Ophthalmology specialty or the ROUB credential.

ARDMS will continue to maintain records for all existing Ophthalmology RDMS Registrants. Thus, all current Active RDMS Ophthalmology Registrants will retain their ARDMS credential as long as they meet their continuing medical education (CMEs) and annual Registry fee requirements.

In the near future, JCAHPO will announce its plans for the ROUB credentialing program. Under this agreement, JCAHPO could develop an Ophthalmologic Sonography credential, but because of trademark regulations, they cannot use "RDMS," "ARDMS" or any other American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers terminology or intellectual property.

Although the ARDMS Board of Directors made a difficult decision to eliminate the ROUB and Ophthalmology sonography programs from the ARDMS roster of credentials, this new agreement between ARDMS and JCAHPO provides the ultrasound ophthalmologic community with a new foundation for a promising future.

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Incorporated in 1969, the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology, Inc. (JCAHPO) has a mission to enhance the quality and availability of ophthalmic patient care by promoting the value of qualified allied health personnel and by providing certification and education. JCAHPO has more than 14,000 certified ophthalmic medical personnel in the United States, Canada, and throughout the world.

The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS), incorporated in 1975, is an independent, nonprofit organization that administers examinations and awards credentials in the areas of diagnostic medical sonography, diagnostic cardiac sonography, and vascular technology. All ARDMS credentialing programs are accredited through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). ARDMS has more than 44,000 certified individuals in the U.S., Canada and throughout the world.