



## Recognition of Sonography Credentialing Organization

*The following background information was prepared by the SDMS Practice Management Committee for the SDMS Board of Directors, SDMS members, and the public. However, the background information should not be considered to be part of the formal position statement above. Definitions have been provided at the end of this document to assist the reader.*

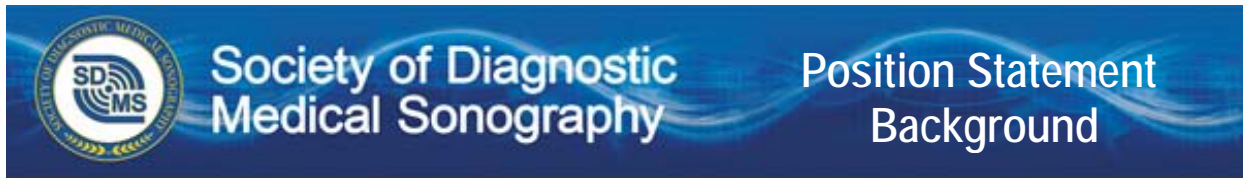
SDMS developed the Recognition of Sonography Credentialing Organization position statement to establish minimum standards for recognition of sonography credentialing organizations for SDMS's internal membership category purposes. SDMS members who hold credentials from credentialing organizations that have met the SDMS recognition standards are considered "active" members. However, SDMS is an inclusive membership organization with a place for all regardless of certifications, level of experience, specialty practice areas, etc. and membership categories are available to those who wish to join SDMS but do not currently hold a credential from one of the credentialing organizations recognized by the SDMS.

According to the SDMS Strategic Plan, the SDMS' envisioned future states SDMS will be responsible for credentialed sonographers achieving full professional status and sonography realizing its full potential within medical practice. The Recognition of Sonography Credentialing Organization Position Statement was developed to apply these goals to the SDMS through its "active" membership category. It is important that credentialing organizations maintain an open dialogue and work with the sonography professional community including the SDMS.

The intent of this position statement is to require credible and responsible oversight of credentialing organizations when applied to the SDMS "active" membership category. Specific criteria have been included in the position statement to ensure the recognized credentialing organization has been in business for five or more years as well as established a track record by credentialing a minimum of 1,000 sonographers.

Requiring programmatic accreditation ensures specialized programs like diagnostic medical sonography programs within an educational institution meet established criteria for education and training within the diagnostic medical sonography profession. This is consistent with another SDMS position statement, *Accreditation of Sonography Education Programs* that supports programmatic accreditation rather than only institutional accreditation.

Accreditation by the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) / National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) or American National Standards Institute (ANSI) provides an additional assurance that a credentialing organization adheres to standards designed to ensure the safety and well-being of patients. Refer to the *Definition of Select Terms* for more information.



## Recognized Credentialing Organization

The following sonography credentialing organization(s) have met the requirements above and are currently recognized by the SDMS:

- American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Cardiovascular Credentialing International

## Definition of Select Terms

For purposes of this SDMS Position Statement background document, the following definitions may help the reader:

*“Institutional accreditation”* applies to an entire institution, indicating that each of an institution’s parts is contributing to the achievement of the institution’s objectives, although not necessarily all at the same level of quality. [[www.ope.ed.gov](http://www.ope.ed.gov)]

*“Programmatic accreditation”* examines specific schools or programs within an educational institution (e.g., the law school, the medical school, the nursing program). The standards by which these programs are measured have generally been developed by the professionals involved in each discipline and are intended to reflect what a person needs to know and be able to do to function successfully within that profession. Accreditation in the health-related disciplines also serves a very important public interest. Along with certification and licensure, accreditation is a tool intended to help assure a well-prepared and qualified workforce providing health care services. (e.g., Joint Review Committee on Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS) [[www.jrcdms.org](http://www.jrcdms.org)]; Joint Review Committee on Cardiovascular Technology (JRC-CVT) [[www.jrccvt.org](http://www.jrccvt.org)].

*“Accredited”* means accreditation by an agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), United States Department of Education (USDOE) or Canadian Medical Association (CMA) that specifically conducts programmatic accreditation for diagnostic medical sonography, diagnostic cardiac sonography, or vascular technology.

*“Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) formerly known as National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA)”* is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing educational, networking and advocacy resources for the credentialing community. NOCA’s accrediting body, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), evaluates certification organization for compliance with the NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs. [[www.standardsportal.org](http://www.standardsportal.org)]

*“American National Standards Institute (ANSI)”* is a non-profit organization, 501 (c)(3) that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system. The Institute's mission is to enhance both the global competitiveness of U.S. business and the U.S. quality of life by promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems, and safeguarding their integrity. [[www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)]

*“International Organization for Standardization (ISO)”* is the world's largest developer and publisher of International Standards. ISO is a network of the national standards institutes of 162 countries, one member per country, with a Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, that coordinates the system. ISO is a non-governmental organization that forms a bridge between the public and private sectors. [<http://www.iso.org/iso/about.htm>]