



SOCIETY OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

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MODEL JOB DESCRIPTION: ADVANCED SONOGRAPHER

POSITION SUMMARY

The Advanced Sonographer functions as a mid-level healthcare provider who, working under the delegated authority of the supervising physician, serves as a physician extender. The Advanced Sonographer's role and responsibilities extend beyond those of the staff sonographer and are focused on providing advanced clinical sonography services. The Advanced Sonographer's functions are performed consistent with their education and training, and in accordance with facility, protocols, policies, and procedures, and applicable professional standards.

The Advanced Sonographer essential functions are categorized as:

- **Primary Responsibilities** (core competencies and/or skills that typify the work of the Advanced Sonographer); and
- **Other Responsibilities** (functions that may also be required of the Advanced Sonographer).

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications for the Advanced Sonographer position include:

- Extensive sonography education, training, and experience in the specialty area(s) to be performed.
- Extensive clinical experience in providing sonography services and demonstrated ability to mentor and support staff sonographers.
- Demonstrated competence in the specialty area(s) to be performed through sonographer certification by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS), American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), or Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI). Where available, advanced sonographer certification should be acquired.
- Demonstrated commitment to professional growth and lifelong learning (e.g., continuing medical education in the specialty area(s) performed, advanced sonography education and training, higher education, research, writing, speaking, etc.).
- Demonstrated proficiency with computer skills and software programs used for documentation and report generation.
- State sonographer license, where applicable.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

PERFORMANCE OF SONOGRAPHY

Primary Responsibilities

- Prepare exam room and ultrasound equipment to conduct sonography examinations in accordance with infectious disease, sterilization, and patient safety protocols, policies, and procedures.
- Assume responsibility for the safety of the patient during the sonography examination.
- Review patient medical history and supporting clinical information.
- Ensure the sonography examination order is complete, contains relevant clinical information, and meets the standard for “medical necessity.”
- Evaluate any contraindications, insufficient patient preparation, and the patient’s inability or unwillingness to tolerate the examination or associated procedures.
- Communicate with the patient in a manner appropriate to the patient’s ability to understand.
- Use proper patient positioning tools, devices, equipment adjustment, and ergonomically correct scanning techniques to ensure patient comfort and safety, and to prevent compromised data acquisition and musculoskeletal injury to the sonographer.
- Conduct patient clinical assessment and perform the sonography examination ordered by the supervising physician in accordance with professional and facility protocols.
- Apply independent, professional, ethical judgment, and critical thinking to safely perform diagnostic sonography procedures.
- Apply independent, professional, and ethical judgment in the sonography examination to ensure that appropriate anatomical, pathological, and clinical conditions are accurately captured in the examination images.
- As necessary, acquire additional images to facilitate optimum diagnostic results for the interpreting physician.
- Identify and document any limitations to the sonography examination.
- Review examination images, synthesize sonography examination results, and prepare the preliminary findings.
- Except as authorized by written facility policies and procedures, refer specific diagnostic, treatment or prognosis questions to the appropriate physician or healthcare professional.
- Maintain patient privacy and confidentiality in accordance with privacy laws (e.g., HIPAA) and facility policies, and procedures.

- Adhere to applicable professional and ethical standards.
- Provide patient services consistent with the Scope of Practice and Clinical Standards for the Diagnostic Sonographer.
- Perform advanced sonography services or other tasks (e.g., PICC line, interventional procedures, etc.) delegated by the supervising physician, consistent with education, training, and facility protocols, policies, and procedures.
- Provide preliminary report of sonography examination for use by the interpreting physician.
- Assist with the daily operation of the sonography facility.

EQUIPMENT USE AND MAINTENANCE

Primary Responsibilities

- Perform quality control procedures to ensure that the ultrasound equipment operates at optimal levels.
- Exercise responsibility to ensure that the ultrasound equipment is functioning accurately.
- Provide education and training to sonographers in the utilization of new equipment features/benefits or scanning techniques.
- **Other Responsibilities**
 - Perform quality control procedures to determine that ultrasound equipment operates at optimal levels to ensure patient safety.
 - Exercise responsibility for the preventive maintenance program for ultrasound equipment.
 - Ensure appropriate ultrasound equipment is available and provide opportunities for staff input during the equipment selection and purchasing process.
 - Assume responsibility for the preventive maintenance program for ultrasound equipment.

DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING

Primary Responsibilities:

- Document any incidental findings that may impact patient safety or patient care and provide that information to the interpreting physician.
- Exercise responsibility for the preparation, maintenance, and accuracy of reports, database records, and logs.

Other Responsibilities

- Provide oversight for facility Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS).

SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT

Primary Responsibilities

- Provide general supervision and evaluation of staff sonographers.
- Ensure staff compliance with clinical and operational protocols, policies, and procedures.
- Provide leadership and direction in the development and implementation of protocols, policies, procedures, and new technologies.
- Provide oversight of clinical experience for student sonographers.

Other Responsibilities

- Exercise responsibility for day-to-day operation of the facility's sonography services.
- Ensure that sonographers have timely access to equipment, supplies, and logistical support.
- Exercise responsibility for staffing selection, addressing performance issues, and staff terminations.
- Provide input for the performance assessment of staff sonographers.
- Ensure staff compliance with facility and professional standards.
- Ensure that staff professional education requirements are met and maintained, including applicable licensure, certification, and/or accreditation standards
- Assist with the orientation and training of new staff sonographers.
- Exercise responsibility for sonography team building, morale, and performance.
- Develop and manage budgets and operational reports.
- Provide direction and guidance for departmental workflow.
- Assist with workload scheduling.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Primary Responsibilities

- Ensure that sonography examination results meet the facility standard for quality assurance before findings are released for interpretation.
- Work with the supervising physician to ensure quality patient care.
- Function as a technical or clinical leader/expert in sonography.

- Accountable for the creation, oversight, and implementation of scanning protocols and quality control activities.
- Provide technical, image quality, and accuracy oversight for the assessment of sonography examinations.
- Provide re-scanning support to staff sonographers, when appropriate.
- Pursue and maintain cutting-edge technical and clinical updates.

Other Responsibilities

- Develop and implement quality assurance protocols and quality improvement measures.
- Ensure that appropriate accreditation is secured and maintained.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Primary Responsibilities

- Responsible for the mentoring and professional development of staff.
- Responsible for coordinating sonography research projects.

Other Responsibilities

- Provide oversight for the staff continuing education program to ensure professional knowledge, expertise, and skills are maintained.
- Ensure that staff professional education requirements are met and maintained, including applicable licensure, certification, and/or accreditation standards

HEALTH CARE TEAM INTERACTION

Primary Responsibilities

- Establish and maintain collaborative working relationships with co-workers, administrators, and other members of the health care team.
- Assist with the education and training of sonography students and physician residents.

Other Responsibilities

- Serve as a representative and advocate with other internal or external members of the health care team.