



# Promoting Excellence In Ultrasound

## **Policies and Statements**

# **C5**

Supervision Of Student Sonographers

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#### Supervision Of Student Sonographers

*May 1996, Revised September 1999, Revised June 2008*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Student (unqualified) sonographers require supervision to safely provide the highest possible standard of ultrasound examinations and to fulfill their educational requirements.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

Student Sonographers are individuals undertaking a course of study leading to the attainment of the Diploma of Medical Ultrasonography Part II (DMU) or a similar qualification recognised by the Australasian Sonographer Accreditation Registry (ASAR).

Supervisors should be accredited medical sonographers or medical practitioners with suitable qualifications. Sonographer supervisors should hold the DMU or similar ultrasound qualification recognised by the ASAR. Medical practitioners should hold the Diploma of Diagnostic Ultrasound (DDU) or similar ultrasound qualification, or be practitioners of recognised skill and experience in ultrasound.

#### **LEVEL OF SUPERVISION**

Adequate supervision requires the presence, on the premises, of an accredited medical sonographer and/or sonologist (specialist medical practitioner - one who satisfies the guidelines contained in the Intercollegiate Consensus Statement for physicians performing and interpreting ultrasound) who is available and has sufficient time to participate in the examination at the required level.

The degree of participation of the supervisor will depend on the competence and experience of the student.

Levels of supervision may include:

1. supervision, in person, of the entire examination
2. extension of the examination or rescanning of any areas needing clarification, after the initial examination has been performed by the student
3. review of the hard copy record and discussion of the case, before the patient leaves the premises, to enable (2) to be implemented where necessary.

#### **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

- Student sonographers should be assessed at regular intervals and should demonstrate competence in general areas before proceeding in a planned sequence to specialty areas.

- Persons presently employed in performing ultrasound scans, who do not meet the criteria established by the Australasian Sonographer Accreditation Registry for acceptance as accredited medical sonographers, or the definition of a student sonographer, should be asked by their employers for a binding statement of intent to enrol in a program leading to an ASAR accredited qualification.
- Employers should specify, in advertising positions in ultrasound, the need for accreditation or student status to be demonstrated prior to employment.



Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine  
PO Box 943, Crows Nest NSW 1585, Sydney AUSTRALIA  
Phone: +61 2 9438 2078 • Fax: +61 2 9438 3686  
Email: [asum@asum.com.au](mailto:asum@asum.com.au) • Website: <http://www.asum.com.au>  
ABN: 64 001 679 161