Professional Standards

Scope of Practice of the Profession:
The Diagnostic Ultrasound Professional is an individual qualified by professional credentialing and academic and clinical experience to provide diagnostic patient care services using ultrasound and related diagnostic procedures. The scope of practice of the Diagnostic Ultrasound Professional includes those procedures, acts and processes permitted by law, for which the individual has received education and clinical experience, and in which he/she has demonstrated competency.

Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound Professionals:
• Perform patient assessments
• Acquire and analyze data obtained using ultrasound and related diagnostic technologies
• Provide a summary of findings to the physician to aid in patient diagnosis and management
• Use independent judgment and systematic problem solving methods to produce high quality diagnostic information and optimize patient care.

In the Core Level DMS courses, as well as in the DMS profession, the student will need to have the ability to perform the following activities:

Technical Standards for a DMS Student and Sonographer

Individuals must possess the ability to:
1. Lift and move patients and accessories;
2. Coordinate movements of equipment, such as portable machines, furniture and other accessories;
3. Utilize the skills needed to perform procedures with "universal precautions" when working with all types of patients;
4. Give clear oral instructions to patient, peers and healthcare personnel;
5. Hear audible cues and warnings on imaging equipment and life support devices;
6. Utilize the sense of touch in order to provide patient care and position patients for sonographic procedures;
7. Evaluate images distinguishing between black, white and shades of gray tones
8. Utilize interpersonal skills to handle patients with physical or emotional trauma.
9. Transport in and out of the ultrasound room non-ambulatory patients who may arrive in wheelchairs or on stretchers.
10. Develop, duplicate, or evaluate ultrasound images within the confines of a dark room.
11. Distinguish color variations in hues, tone, or brightness.
12. Distinguish slight audible Doppler signal variations.

I have read both pages of this document and fully understand the minimum standards and requirements for the ultrasound program and profession.
Clinical Standard of the Profession
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers function in a broad spectrum of clinical situations. In order to ensure patient safety and provide accurate diagnostic information, sonographers must be able to adapt and perform in a variety of settings. The following are some of the skills and abilities needed to function as a professional sonographer:

• **Physical Activity:** Long periods of standing and frequent walking; Repetitive motion activities (scanning, entering computer data); Pulling and pushing of equipment and stretchers; Performing fine gross motor skills with both hands; Visually discriminate shades of gray and various shades of colors; Visual assessment of images on computer terminals and video recordings

• **Communication:** Speak in a clear comprehensible manner; Communicate effectively with patients and medical personnel; Assess non-verbal communications; Receive detailed information through oral communication and make fine discriminations in sound

• **Intellectual and Quantitative Abilities:** Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize data; Comprehend three dimensional relationships; Understand the spatial relationships of structures; Use problem solving skills

• **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** Use of good judgment; Ability to follow protocols; Ability to develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and others; Ability to tolerate taxing workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to a changing environment, display flexibility; Display compassion, integrity and concern for others; Possess motivation and commitment to providing quality patient care and diagnostic information; Demonstrate concern for the patient’s care, needs, safety and right to privacy; Adhere to accepted professional and ethical standards.