

Appendix a.1. Credentialing Guidelines for Ultrasound as approved by the American College of Emergency Physicians

http://www.acep.org/uploadedFiles/ACEP/memberCenter/SectionsofMembership/ultra/Ultrasonound_Proposal_Amended_for_ACEP_2008.doc

Training and Credentialing

Guidelines for training and credentials have been set up by the American College of Emergency Physicians. These credentialing criteria are comprised of both formal didactic training and hand-on experience with emergency ultrasound. When combined with the proposed Quality Assurance program, this will ensure that all physicians are proficient with ultrasound techniques and interpretation.

ED focused Ultrasonography

REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Education - MD or DO; **AND**
- B. Training
 - a. Board Certified or eligible in Emergency Medicine; **OR**
 - b. Training per hospital requirements; **AND**
- C. Residency training in emergency ultrasonography with acceptable verification; **OR**
- D. Practice based Pathway
 - a. 16 hours of a formal education that conforms to the ACEP guidelines ; **OR**
 - b. A series of 1-day single-application format courses; **AND**
 - c. Performance of 25 ultrasound per primary indication in a case-control manner with confirmatory studies; **AND/OR**
 - d. 150 total ultrasound in a case-control manner with confirmatory studies for general emergency medicine ultrasound privileges.
 - e. Documented by ongoing CQI review.
- E. A letter stating proficiency by the Emergency Ultrasound Director.

Quality Assurance

Review of emergency ultrasound will be performed by the Division of Emergency Ultrasound faculty. The review process will have three functions: 1) as a tool for education and feedback for physicians completing the credentialing process, 2) to monitor ongoing performance of physicians that have completed the credentialing process, 3) to identify areas of deficiency requiring ongoing education or peer review.

Ultrasounds are stored as electronic images and a QA form will be completed by the performing physician. The ultrasounds will be reviewed on three criteria:

- 1) Was the study indicated by the patient's presentation?
- 2) Was the study technically adequate?
- 3) Was the interpretation correct?

All ultrasounds performed and documented in the emergency department and performed by emergency physicians will undergo quality assurance on a weekly basis.