



VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

Quality Improvement Guidelines for Accuracy of Examinations in the Vascular Laboratory

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VASCULAR PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE GUIDELINE

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PURPOSE

To assure that ultrasound exams are accurate, performed at a minimum acceptable quality and that corrective measures are initiated when discrepancies are identified with an exam. To ensure that exams are reviewed in weekly, monthly or quarterly meetings with the medical director and laboratory supervisor, or his/her designee; annual meetings with all staff must be held to review quality.

EXAMINATION QUALITY MEASURES

Each facility should have a written Quality Improvement (QI) program where examinations are reviewed on a regular basis. The Medical Director/staff/QI Committee should provide oversight of this program and be responsible for corrective action.

QI Measures for case review can include, but are not limited to:

- Image quality, interpretive quality, indication appropriateness, protocol adherence, criteria use, report completeness, correlation with other imaging modalities, etc.

PROTOCOLS

The vascular lab should have written protocols for image acquisition requirements and interpretive guidelines. Protocols should be reviewed and updated regularly. It is recommended to have a critical findings and lab-specific results reporting protocols. These protocols should be easily accessible by all members of the lab.

CRITERIA

Each examination performed in the facility must have a single set of written, validated diagnostic criteria to interpret the presence of disease and to document its severity, location, extent and whenever possible etiology. Other diagnostic criteria must be based on published reports or internally generated and validated. Internally validated diagnostic criteria must have retrievable records supporting the validation process.

EQUIPMENT QUALITY ASSURANCE

Preventative maintenance of equipment must be performed. Accuracy of transducers must be documented with use of a phantom measurement and records retained by the department and/or biomedical departments. Equipment must be

cleaned on a regular basis within individual laboratory policy and/or manufacturer's recommendations. Maintenance policies and agreements for diagnostic equipment must be maintained by each laboratory and/or biomedical departments.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Credentialing in the modality or modalities being practiced is strongly recommended. Recognized credentials are available through organizations such as the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS), American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), and Cardiovascular Credentialing international (CCI). Maintaining certification requires completion of continuing educational requirements. Individuals are responsible for keeping their credential(s) current, and the vascular laboratory should routinely verify active credential status.