



the peak body and leading voice
for sonographers

Thursday, 12 April 2018

Dr Lance Lawler
President
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
Level 9, 51 Druitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Cc: ranzcr@ranzcr.com

Dear Dr Lawler,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the revision of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists *Standards of Practice for Clinical Radiology Version 11*.

These standards are an important resource to guide the provision of quality radiology services across Australia and New Zealand. It is essential that the expectations of all radiology health professionals, including sonographers, are appropriately described to ensure patients have access to quality medical diagnostic imaging and other radiology services.

The Australasian Sonographers Association broadly agrees with the revised content as presented in the survey, with some minor amendment to sections 4, 5 and 15. We have provided this feedback via the survey and included a summary of the requested amendment with this letter.

If you have any queries on this feedback please do not hesitate to contact James Brooks-Dowsett, Policy & Advocacy, by phone on (03) 9552 0008 or email to policy@sonographers.org. I look forward to continue to work with the college to assure the provision of quality medical diagnostic imaging to communities across Australia and New Zealand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Alphonse'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Jennifer Alphonse, PhD
President – the Australasian Sonographers Association

Requested amendment to comments on the Standards of Practice for Clinical Radiology Version 11

Section	Subsection	Comment
4.2 Qualifications, Registration and Licensing		Please include an equivalent statement for sonographers as a subsection to this section to complement 15.2.1 & 15.2.2
4.3 CPD		Please include an equivalent statement for sonographers as a subsection to this section (e.g. 4.3.5) to complement 15.2.4
5.2 Professional Competence		Please include an equivalent statement for student sonographers as a subsection to this section (e.g. as 5.2.4)
5.5.1 Interpretation and Reporting the Results		To be consistent with 15.3.5, a reference to 'inclusion of a sonographer's initial and surname on the record of examination' should be included here as an indicator
5.5.2 Remote Reporting		It is recommended that a reference to the requirements of "15.3.2 Sonographers Performing Ultrasound Examinations in Remote Locations" is included in the indicator descriptions of this section.
15.1.1 Equipment	15.1.1.1 – 7	Changes to indicators one (1) through seven (7) are positive, however could be improved. The association supports the inclusion of the paediatric practice area at 15.1.1.8. However, the equipment indicator descriptions could be improved (e.g. phased array, small footprint transducer for cardiac). The Australasian Sonographers Association would be happy to assist the College with this work if needed.
	15.1.1.8	This monitor specification is out of date and new technologies have replaced this specification
15.2.1 Qualifications Sonographer		Incorrect terminology "ASAR membership" Notes here should use the Medicare or ASAR phrasing. i.e. that sonographers are ASAR accredited and recorded on the ASAR register of accredited sonographers
15.2.2 Qualifications Student Sonographers		Incorrect terminology "ASAR membership" Notes here should use the ASAR phrasing. i.e. that students sonographers are: enrolled in an ASAR accredited course; are themselves ASAR accredited; and are recorded on the ASAR register of accredited sonographers.
15.2.4 CPD - sonographers		Incorrect terminology "ASAR membership" Notes here should use the ASAR phrasing. i.e. that sonographers and student sonographers are ASAR accredited and recorded on the ASAR register of accredited sonographers

Section	Subsection	Comment
15.3 Professional supervision	15.3.2 sonographers in remote locations	Unlike imaging such as CT where the radiologist triages the request and defines the specific imaging protocol, within ultrasound it is the sonographer who reviews the request details. The ASA requests this be acknowledged in the indicator with final consultation with the radiologist if required.
	15.3.4 performance of U/S exams	<p>Medical imaging and in particular ultrasound is a collaborative interdisciplinary team approach. In day to day operation, the sonographer performs the complete examination and submits images and a worksheet to the radiologist. This process operates under department guidelines where the sonographer maintains a great deal of autonomy and scope to direct the examination to a conclusion and diagnosis.</p> <p>The sonographer conclusions as well as the examination images become the basis of the examination report. The ASA requests these standards be amended to better recognise the role the sonographer performs in the process of medical diagnostic ultrasound examination.</p>
15.4 Safety	15.4.1 ultrasound safety	the Australasian Sonographers Association supports the amendments to subsection 15.4.1; and encourages the college to also refer to the ASA practice update: disinfection of intracavity ultrasound transducers. VIC Mar 2018 .
		the Australasian Sonographers Association supports the inclusion of subsection 15.4.2. However, we strongly encourage the College to also refer to the ASA practice update: disinfection of intracavity ultrasound transducers. VIC Mar 2018 .
15.5 Patient Management	15.5.1	Would this be better incorporated into “Section 7 Patient Management”? if no then, as with section 7, the relevant resources should also be referenced here.