



a healthier world through
sonographer expertise

Thursday, 30 September 2021

Dr Lance Lawler
President
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
Level 9, 51 Drutt Street
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

Via email to: StandardS@ranzcr.edu.au

Dear Dr Lawler,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments or suggestions to be noted during the review of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists *Standards of Practice for Clinical Radiology Version 11.2*.

These standards are an essential resource to guide quality radiology services across Australia and New Zealand. It is crucial 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.

Version 11.2 of the standards have been reviewed by the Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA) Sonographer Policy and Advisory Committee. The committee has highlighted a few adjustments that could be made to the sonographer/ultrasound sections to improve the statements. I have attached the comments and suggestions that the ASA requests are noted in the standards review.

The ASA also encourages the College to invite other medical professional bodies' views with some overlapping responsibilities (e.g. from the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand) as part of the review process if the College has not already done so.

If you require any additional information to support this feedback, please write to me directly or contact the ASA Policy and Advocacy Advisor, James Brooks-Dowsett, by phone at +61 406 998 429 or email to policy@sonographers.org.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the review of these standards. I look forward to continued work with the College that supports quality medical diagnostic imaging for communities across Australia and New Zealand.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Schroen

President of the Board
The Australasian Sonographers Association

Attachment: Comments and suggestions the ASA requests to be noted in the review of the Standards

Section	Sub-section	Comment
4.2.3 Qualifications - Sonographer	(ii)	The ASA supports this being a stronger statement. i.e. "The Practice must ensure ..."
5.2.3 Trainee Sonographers		Consider including an additional sub-point that <i>"Appropriate times are allotted to trainees to scan in an unpressurised environment."</i>
17.1.1 Ultrasound - Equipment	(iii)	Cardiac ultrasound does not use Power Doppler and does not scan with a linear probe. The latest guidelines are for multi-frequency sector probes, not just 2.5MHz frequency and small format CW probes. There should also be mention of tissue Doppler and strain imaging and PACS that can analyse large size loops and 3D. We recommend incorporating the minimum requirements as per the IAC 1.1.1B www.intersocietal.org/echo/standards/IACAdultEchocardiographyStandards2021.pdf , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doppler tissue imaging (not just PWD and CWD) • a dedicated non-imaging CW Doppler probe • multi-frequency phased array transducer with harmonic frequency capability – currently states "Linear transducer of frequency 2.5 MHz." • ECG monitoring and display
17.2.1 Qualifications - Sonographer	17.2.1	We recommended strengthening the statement to require sonographers to be 'suitably qualified and accredited for scanning procedures <u>they are involved with</u> ' to require that sonographers are not practising in an area they are not qualified for (e.g. general sonographers providing cardiac ultrasound examinations).
17.2.4 CPD – Sonographers and Student Sonographers		We recommend adjusting this to "17.2.4 CPD – Sonographers" as student sonographers are not required to complete CPD or participate in a CPD
17.4.2 Ultrasound - Infection Control		This point could be strengthened by including reference to the ASA practice update: disinfection of intracavity ultrasound transducers. VIC Mar 2018 www.sonographers.org/publicassets/1811081c-1289-ea11-90fb-0050568796d8/Disinfection_Intracavity_Transducer-180919.pdf