

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title:	Sonographer
Responsible to:	Site Manager
Qualifications:	Qualification in Radiography, Nuclear Medicine, Nursing, Medicine, Science or as acceptable to ASUM

Definition

A sonographer is an appropriately trained, qualified professional who is registered by the Australasian Sonographer Accreditation Registry (ASAR) and who has specialised in the diagnostic application of Ultrasound. Training involves undertaking an appropriate postgraduate course of practical and theoretical study specific to the practice of diagnostic ultrasound.

Requirements

A sonographer requires a wide general knowledge in:

- Human anatomy, embryology, physiology and pathology and a detailed knowledge of the anatomical regions in which he/she specialises.
- In particular it is a necessity to have a three dimensional conceptual understanding of sonographic anatomical appearances, normal variations and pathological processes, in order to develop differential diagnoses.
- The physical principles of diagnostic ultrasound, including how the images are formed and recorded, and the associated artefacts which can be encountered.
- By the nature of ultrasound examinations, sonographers are accorded a high level of autonomy and responsibility in obtaining accurate diagnostic information from the ultrasound examination compared with other imaging technologists. It is therefore particularly important that those involved in the diagnostic ultrasound process are cognisant of the requirements and responsibilities of sonographers described in this document.
- Refer to [ASUM "Policy on Diagnostic Ultrasound Services" \(C2\)](#)

Responsibilities

Sonographers are required to:

- Comply with CIG protocol
- Understand medical practice and terminology to allow for professional communication with the supervising medical practitioner, referring medical practitioner and colleagues
- Extend the examination to other areas as may be indicated by the findings during the examination
- Understand nursing procedures for the patients examined, and the procedures for medical emergencies, infection control and interventional techniques
- Assist in the education of student sonographers, medical practitioners and practitioners with an interest in diagnostic ultrasound
- Monitor equipment to ensure it is functioning properly, and evaluate new equipment
- Understand the principles of safety of ultrasound, including possible bioeffects and biohazards, and the implications regarding safe use of the equipment
- Appreciate and implement the principles of research
- Undertake continuing education to ensure maintenance of skills and the ability to adopt newly developed techniques in medical ultrasound
- Have excellent communication skills necessary to conduct the examination in a caring and professional manner
- Comply with an ethical code of practice such as the ASUM "Policy on Diagnostic Ultrasound Services" (B1)
- Provisional/interim diagnosis and writing of report required.
- The final diagnosis and writing of the report are the responsibility of the medical practitioner.



Qualified sonographers

- Are expected to perform all basic, intermediate and most advanced examinations in the timeframe allowed by CIG booking protocol.
- Seniors may undertake further training in vascular ultrasound as vacancies arise.
- It is expected that seniors will fit in extra patients as required
- Other duties as required

Selection Criteria

- Qualifications as stated above
- Demonstrated enthusiasm for the profession and a willingness to learn
- Demonstrated ability to produce high quality imaging on a variety of equipment in a variety of settings within set timeframes
- Current participation in a CPD program
- Excellent communication skills with both patients and team members
- Ability to provide a high quality service with a strong customer focus
- Flexibility to move between sites as per the CIG roster