Advisory to diagnostic medical sonography programs
Re: revision to national competency profile

The Committee on Conjoint Accreditation has accepted the updated Sonography Canada national competency profile for use in the accreditation of diagnostic medical sonography programs.

Sonography Canada’s National Competency Profile for Generalist Sonographer, Cardiac Sonographer, Vascular Sonographer (version 5.0, dated April 2014) will be used for accreditation surveys effective September 2015. This profile will replace the previous version (version 4.2, 2004-2009). The revised profile is available on the Sonography Canada website (www.sonographycanada.ca).

UPDATE:
Sonography Canada has informed CMA Accreditation of an amendment to the national competency profile (version 5.0, dated April 2014) in Appendix 1.8 (Examination techniques for the vascular sonographer).

The amended competency profile (version 5.0, dated March 2015) is available on the Sonography Canada website (www.sonographycanada.ca). The only change between the April 2014 and March 2015 versions is the addition to Appendix 1.8.

Major changes include:

- removal of the quantitative definition of “competency” (involving 80% satisfactory performance) and replacement with a qualitative definition of “entry-level proficiency”.
- discontinued “critical competencies”
- removal of appendices 2.1 – 2.7 (pathophysiology) and 3 (physics / instrumentation)
- additional competencies added to area 2 - Professional Responsibilities
- restructure and addition to appendix 1.6: examination techniques for the generalist sonographer - Extracranial arteries and peripheral veins
- revision and addition of competency statements (approximately 12% as compared to version 4.2)
- addition of “continuous wave Doppler assessment” technique to Appendix 1.8 (Vascular)

Accreditation surveys and reporting requirements

Critical criterion 1.3
Validation of critical criterion 1.3 – Cross-reference of curriculum to the competency profile (Program self-assessment report and accreditation visit)

Programs scheduled for their regular survey in September 2015 or later must cross reference their program to version 5.0 of the profiles as part of the evidence submitted with their program self-assessment report (see Requirements for accreditation, critical criterion 1.3) or during their survey visit.
Programs scheduled for their regular survey between April 2014 and June 2015 may choose to cross reference their program to version 5.0 of the profiles. If they do, they will not be subject to the 2015 reporting requirements described below.

Note that the competencies in areas 1 to 7 of the profiles as well as the structures and techniques in appendices 1.1 to 1.7 must be cross-referenced.

**Critical criterion 1.5**
**Validation of critical criterion 1.5 – Attainment of competencies – Student records**

During their next scheduled accreditation visit, programs are expected to provide verifiable data confirming the students’ attainment of competencies in the Sonography Canada competency profiles.

Attainment of all competencies in areas 1 to 7 of the profiles must be demonstrated. Validation of attainment of the structures and techniques in the appendices will occur via a review of a program’s completed evaluation tools and Sonography Canada’s Canadian Clinical Skills Assessment (CCSA) tool.

See also Requirements for accreditation, criterion 1.5, for more information on the type of evidence to be submitted for this criterion.

It is possible, depending on the scheduled time of the visit, that version 5.0 of the profiles will be used to assess critical criterion 1.3, while version 4.2 of the profiles will be used to assess critical criterion 1.5.

**Reporting requirement**
Accredited diagnostic medical sonography programs must demonstrate compliance with version 5.0 of the competency profiles by **September 15, 2015** by submitting a report to CMA Accreditation. The report must include a cross reference of program curriculum to version 5.0 of the competency profiles, and be accompanied by the course outlines that validate inclusion of all the competencies in the curriculum.

Evidence should be submitted electronically, either on a USB key, through an electronic management system or by email.

**Communication with CMA Accreditation**

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about this change in the competency profiles for diagnostic medical sonography.