Who is the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS®)?

Incorporated in 1975, the ARDMS is a not-for-profit Council with a long-standing mission of raising the global standards of excellence in healthcare and patient safety. ARDMS has certified more than 85,000 medical professionals worldwide in the field of ultrasound who see over 20 million patients a year.

ARDMS empowers sonographers to provide exceptional patient care through rigorous assessments and continual learning.

Who is the Alliance for Physician Certification & Advancement™ (APCA™)?

APCA is the physician-centric not-for-profit Council, spun out of ARDMS. APCA is dedicated to serving physicians in their enduring commitment to continual learning and providing high-quality and compassionate patient care through certification.

APCA certified physicians demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed to provide exceptional care to patients.

Why ARDMS and APCA are Important to You

ARDMS credentials and APCA certifications are recognized worldwide by leading organizations, insurance payers and providers, hospitals, etc. to provide assurance that your medical professional has obtained the full range of knowledge and skill competencies needed for maintaining the highest standards in ultrasound practice.

Be sure you are receiving the highest level of care by asking if the person performing your examination has been certified by the ARDMS and/or APCA.

Quality Care and Patient Safety Through Certification

Ask for an ARDMS or APCA Certified Sonography Professional Today

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American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography

APCA™
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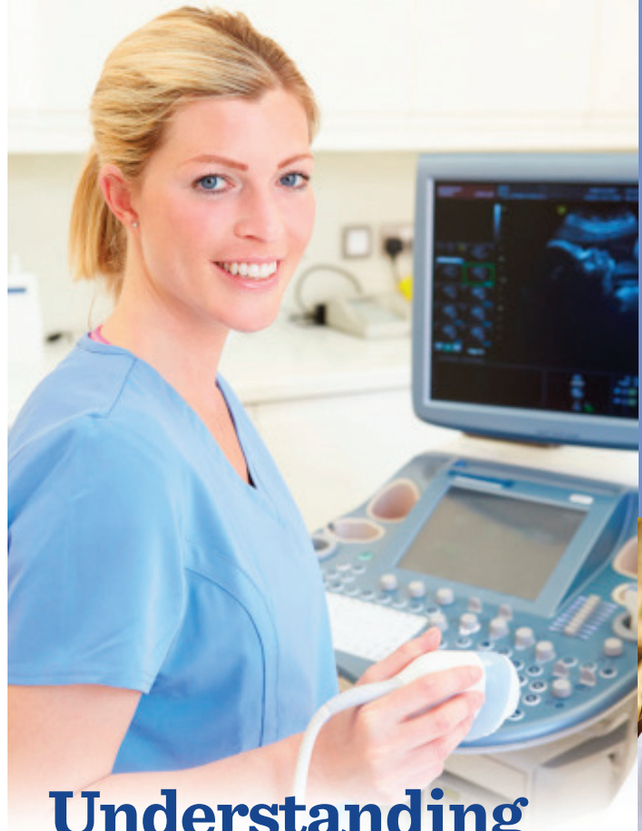

Understanding Sonography...

...and the Importance of Certification

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What is Diagnostic Sonography?

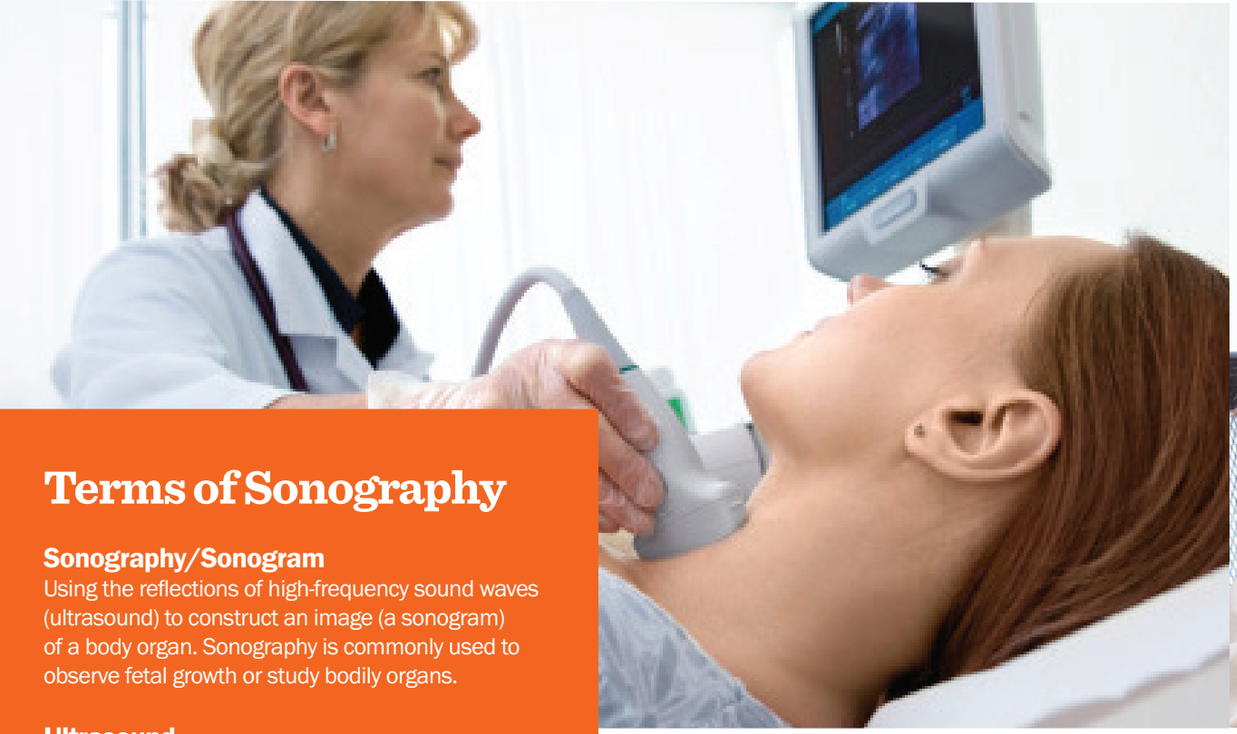
Sonography (ultrasound) is a non-invasive diagnostic medical imaging procedure used to visualize organs or systems in the body.

In sonography, a transmitting device (the transducer) sends out high-frequency ultrasound waves. Harmless sound waves, which contain no radiation, bounce off the surfaces of the object they hit. The reflected sound forms an echo which is visualized on the screen.

Why Do I Need a Sonogram?

You may need a sonogram for a variety of different reasons. Your healthcare professional may order the examination to obtain a better understanding of the best way to treat you. While sonography is commonly used for monitoring fetal growth, it is also used to monitor the health of your heart, abdomen, vascular and musculoskeletal systems.

The sonogram will typically be performed by a physician, sonographer, or a medical imaging specialist. Be sure you are receiving the highest level of care by asking if the person performing your examination has been certified by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography or the Alliance for Physician Certification & Advancement.



Terms of Sonography

Sonography/Sonogram
Using the reflections of high-frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to construct an image (a sonogram) of a body organ. Sonography is commonly used to observe fetal growth or study bodily organs.

Ultrasound
The use of ultrasonic waves for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes, specifically to image an internal body structure, monitor a developing fetus, or generate localized deep heat to the tissues.

Transducer
A device that receives a signal in the form of one type of energy and converts it to a signal in another form.

Sound wave
A wave that transmits sound.

Sonographer
A specialist in the use of sonography; a person who performs the sonographic examination (ultrasound).

Physician
Analyzes, interprets and diagnoses ultrasound images.

What Happens During a Sonogram?

An odorless, colorless gel is applied to the area of the body to be examined. The sonographer or imaging professional will then place a small handheld device known as a transducer on your skin. The transducer emits high-frequency pulses of ultrasonic waves that travel into your body.

Your body then reflects the sound waves, and the images appear on the screen. The gel helps eliminate air pockets between your body and the transducer, thus providing clearer images for the physician to study.

As the transducer is moved, images of the various organs appear on a monitor. The sonographer then optimizes the images and electronically stores the most diagnostically useful images. Selected images are then shared with an interpreting physician for a final diagnosis.

Why Does Certification Matter?

Certification makes a critical difference in the quality of the sonogram. Knowing how to perform and interpret a sonogram accurately takes years of training and experience.

Certification from APCA and credentials from ARDMS assure that the medical professional interpreting and performing the examination has obtained the knowledge and skills needed for maintaining the highest standards in the practice of ultrasound.

ANSI Accredited Program
PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION
RDMS, RDCS, RVT, and RPVI Credentialing Programs Accredited #0074

The Registered Physician Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) APCA credentialing program, as well as the RDMS, RDCS and RVT ARDMS credentialing programs, are accredited by ANSI to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17024 Standard for organizations that certify personnel.

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