

POL011 ASAR Position Statement on Sonographer Qualifications and Areas of Practice

A sonographer is a highly skilled medical imaging professional who performs diagnostic ultrasound examinations of various areas of the body. Sonographers must hold relevant and accredited postgraduate qualifications in their area of practice to be listed as an accredited sonographer with ASAR. Accredited sonographers are required to document their continuing professional development (CPD) activities with one of the ASAR recognised CPD programs, in order to remain on the register.

Discipline Specific Areas of Sonography Practice

Several areas of discipline specific practice are recognised by ASAR:

- General – abdominal, breast, musculoskeletal, obstetrics and gynaecology, superficial parts and vascular.
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology – obstetrics, female pelvis, maternal abdomen, thyroid and breast, neonatal ultrasound examinations.
- Vascular- dedicated vascular ultrasound imaging, including but not limited to the abdominal vessels, arterial and venous studies of the upper and lower limbs, head and neck.
- Cardiac – paediatric and adult cardiac anatomy, function, physiology at rest, with exercise, during intervention (e.g. drug infusion, device deployment).
- Breast – dedicated ultrasound breast imaging (male and female), including assessment of breast implants, interventional techniques and the correlation of examinations from other breast imaging modalities (e.g. mammography and MRI).

Qualifications should be relevant to Area(s) of Sonography Practice

Excerpt from the MBS Category 5 operating from 1 July 2013

Sonographer accreditation

Sonographers performing medical ultrasound examinations (either R or NR type items) on behalf of a medical practitioner must be suitably qualified, involved in a relevant and appropriate Continuing Professional Development program and be Registered on the Register of Accredited Sonographers held by Medicare Australia.

End of excerpt

ASAR provides information on the accreditation status of Sonographers on the ASAR Register including the scope of their ASAR accredited qualification to Medicare Australia.

Sonographers, who choose to perform ultrasound in an area of practice that is outside the scope of their ASAR accredited qualification, should complete an additional ASAR accredited qualification in that area of practice.

Examples,

1. A Sonographer who holds a qualification in General sonography chooses to perform cardiac ultrasound. The Sonographer should complete an ASAR accredited course in cardiac ultrasound.
2. A Sonographer who holds a qualification in Cardiac sonography chooses to perform vascular ultrasound. The Sonographer should complete an ASAR accredited course in vascular ultrasound.