

**Alberta's Health Regions and Voluntary Organizations and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)**

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Diagnostic Sonographer I**

Date Updated: **May 20, 2008**

**Job Summary:**

The Diagnostic Sonographer I is the working level position performing ultrasound examinations. Under limited supervision performs standardized and complex ultrasound procedures for the diagnosis and tracking of disease and pathology.

**Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:**

**Core Duties**

- Performs a variety of standardized and complex ultrasound services such as abdominal, obstetrical, gynecological, vascular, musculoskeletal, cardiac (including adult and pediatric), neonatal heads, interventional procedures, small parts, mobile exams, pediatric exams, breast area exams and kidney biopsies.
- Provides a written technical impression for all ultrasonographic examinations performed for the attending physician.
- Performs appropriate preliminary measurements and calculations.
- Prepares the patient for examination, reviews patient history, explains procedures, transfers patient onto an ultrasound bed (when required) and scans the patient according to department protocols.
- Prepares sterile trays for imaging procedures.
- Assists Radiologists and Cardiologists, Perinatologists and other medical staff with special procedures such as needle-biopsy, amniocentesis, stress-echo and trans esophageal echocardiograph exams.
- Keeps examination area clean and disinfected and restocks procedure room as required.
- Takes initial action to resolve unusual circumstances or abnormal findings or conditions with patients and equipment.
- Checks standard equipment function, calibration and ensures equipment is disinfected as required.
- May assist with clinical trials by performing correlation exams.

### **Leadership**

- Participates in the training of residents, physicians and other health care providers.
- Supervises, instructs and evaluates Diagnostic Medical Sonographer students.

### **Decision-Making**

- During the procedure, independently analyses and determines if additional procedures are necessary and conducts them if required; consults with Radiologist as appropriate.
- During the procedure, makes decisions on modifications to scanning protocols, consulting with the radiologist as appropriate.

### **Knowledge**

#### **Education**

- Extended Diploma in Diagnostic Sonography from an accredited ultrasound program recognized by the Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (CSDMS) and the Canadian Medical Association (CMA).

#### **or**

- Certification in Diagnostic Sonography from an accredited program recognized by the Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (CSDMS) and the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) **plus** a Diploma in a related field (Medical Radiology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Nuclear Medicine or Radiation Therapy) **or** a Bachelor's of Science Degree in a related field (e.g. Kinesiology).

#### **Registration Requirements**

- Registered with the Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (CSDMS), the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) **and/or** the Canadian Association of Registered Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals (CARDUP).

### **Working Conditions:**

#### **Physical Demands**

- Required to maintain an awkward, arm outstretched posture and perform repetitive hand and wrist motions for extended periods of time.
- Required to stand or sit for extended periods of time to perform the examination.
- Regularly required to lift and assist patients onto examination surface, and reposition or restrain as necessary (using mechanical lifts as required).
- Required to move and transport equipment.

**Work Environment**

- Regular exposure to sound frequencies and low light environments.
- Occasional exposure to verbally/physically aggressive patients or families.
- Occasional exposure to patients who have been injected with radiation.