



ARDMS  
The globally recognized standard  
of excellence in sonography

Contact: Jessica McLane Gann  
Phone: (301) 738-8401 ext. 221  
E-mail: [jessica.mclane@ardms.org](mailto:jessica.mclane@ardms.org)  
Web site: [www.ARDMS.org](http://www.ARDMS.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ARDMS Hosts Recertification Community Advisory Meeting

(ROCKVILLE, MD, February 1, 2008) - On January 11, 2008 the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS) hosted the first in a series of community advisory meetings to address the development of an ARDMS continuing competency assessment (recertification) program. Meeting attendees included members of the ARDMS Recertification Task Force and individuals from the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, American Society of Echocardiography, American Society of Radiologic Technologists, Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, Society for Vascular Ultrasound, and the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, discussed the development of an ARDMS continuing competency program that assures that credentialed Sonographers will periodically demonstrate current entry-level practice competencies through a measurable assessment program.

“ARDMS was honored to host the sonography professional societies to begin discussions on recertification as the major organization that accredits ARDMS, continues to strongly encourage the establishment of a measurable assessment of continuing competency,” said ARDMS CEO and Executive Director, Dale R. Cyr. “ARDMS will continue to meet rigorous quality standards through accrediting organizations such as the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the National Commission for Credentialing Agencies (NCCA) for the benefit of our Registrants who hold our credentials and the public for its safety.”

A significant outcome from the meeting was the determination that the ARDMS recertification program will not require Registrants to follow current credentialing procedures that involve multi-hour examinations at proctored testing centers. Instead, meeting participants discussed several affordable web-based focused recertification models that would assure a meaningful learning experience for Registrants.

“The innovative ideas generated during the meeting, coupled with the extensive research already completed by ARDMS, has laid a solid foundation on which we can build a more meaningful continuing competency assessment program” said ARDMS Recertification Task Force co-chair, Diane Kawamura, PhD, RT(R), RDMS.

A formal ARDMS continuing competency assessment program will take several years to implement and will be based on the following principles outlined during the meeting.

- To maintain ARDMS’s ongoing mission to promote quality care and patient safety through the certification and continuing competency of ultrasound professionals;

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- Reflect the present day entry-level practice of Sonography;
- Benefit patients and the Sonography community;
- Be simple for ARDMS Registrants to comply with;
- Be affordable;
- Co-exist with Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs; and
- Meet recommendations of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), and the International Standards Organization (ISO) which accredit ARDMS.

“The ARDMS continuing competency assessment program will be part of the life-long learning process for the Sonographer,” said ARDMS Recertification Task Force co-chair, Robert McDonald, RDCS, RCS. “The energy and enthusiasm from meeting participants was remarkable and it’s clear that the continuing competency and certification of Sonographers will be a collaborative effort within the Sonography community.”

ARDMS will keep Registrants and the Sonography community fully informed regarding program development through postings on the ARDMS website ([www.ARDMS.org](http://www.ARDMS.org)), articles in organizational newsletters, and other high-profile communication mediums.

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The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS), incorporated in June 1975, is an independent, nonprofit organization that administers examinations and awards credentials in the areas of diagnostic medical sonography, diagnostic cardiac sonography, vascular technology, and physician vascular interpretation. ARDMS credentialing programs are accredited by ANSI-ISO 17024 and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). ARDMS has more than 55,000 certified individuals in the U.S., Canada, and throughout the world and is the recognized international standard in sonography credentialing.

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