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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARDMS to Convert to Scaled Scoring

(ROCKVILLE, MD, December 8, 2006) – Beginning February 1, 2007, all ARDMS examinations will have a standard passing score of 555, based on a scale of 300 to 700 no matter what the specialty or test form.

This means that no matter which examination an individual takes, the passing score is 555 or above.

“Scaled scoring is just an easier way to report and standardize all ARDMS examinations,” said Dale R. Cyr, MBA, CEO & Executive Director. “The content of the examinations has not changed in any way and the change to scaled scoring will not affect the rate of those who pass any ARDMS examinations.”

Background

In the past, ARDMS reported passing scores as raw data, as such there may be different passing scores assigned for each test form. This practice has, at times, been confusing for our candidates, Registrants and the sonography community. To simplify and streamline the score reporting process, ARDMS has adopted scaled scoring.

“Scaled scoring is already the industry standard among major allied health professional organizations and other tests such as the SAT,” said Diane Kawamura, Ph.D., RT(R), RDMS, Chair, ARDMS Board of Directors. “The reporting of scaled scores will make ARDMS scores easier to understand.”

Things to Know About the ARDMS Conversion to Scaled Scoring:

- The pass point (555) is the same. Even though the score will be reported differently, the pass point has not changed. If an individual’s raw score would have passed using the old score reporting method, it will still pass using the scaled scoring method. If an individual’s raw score would have failed using the old score reporting method, it will also fail using the scaled scoring method.

- The content and distribution of the examinations have not changed. The change to scaled scoring will not affect the rate of those who pass or fail ARDMS examinations.
- Procedurally, scaling is simply a conversion. The pass-fail score is scaled to be reported as 555. The maximum score possible is 700 and the minimum possible score is 300.
- The scaled score is not a percentage score or percentage of a total score. Rather, it is the raw score (correct answers) converted into a scale from 300-700.

Please note that a score of 555 does not mean that an individual got 79.3 percent of the questions correct. The scaled score is a conversion that, in part, accounts for the examinations difficulty. Thus the scaled score does not have a direct correlation to the number of questions answered correctly.

ARDMS Ensures Fairness

Our testing department is continuously monitoring the difficulty level of each examination, in order to fairly score each test-taker. Because of this, we can be assured that no matter which examination someone takes, all ARDMS Registrants will be the highest caliber of medical professionals. It is because of this, that ARDMS can continue its tradition of excellence among ultrasound certification.

“We are very excited about the change to scaled scoring in February 2007.” said Diane Kawamura, Ph.D., RT(R), RDMS, Chair, ARDMS Board of Directors. “Reporting scores as scaled will make the test-taking process easier to understand. Simple. Straightforward. Streamlined.”

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The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS), incorporated in 1975, is an independent, nonprofit organization that administers examinations and awards credentials in the areas of diagnostic medical sonography, diagnostic cardiac sonography, vascular interpretation and vascular technology. ARDMS has earned the prestigious ANSI-ISO 17024 accreditation for certifying bodies from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). All ARDMS credentialing programs are also accredited through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). ARDMS has certified more than 52,000 individuals in the U.S., Canada and throughout the world and is the recognized international standard in sonography credentialing.