



Registry Reports

Quarterly Newsletter for ARDMS Registrants

ARDMS Testing Vendor to Implement New Security Measure

The ARDMS testing vendor, Pearson VUE, will be implementing a new security feature at all test centers later this year. As part of the check-in process, candidates will be required to take part in a palm vein recognition scan for ARDMS examinations.



Palm vein recognition scans the veins of an individual's hand to create a digital template that represents the unique palm vein pattern. This new technology offers a form of identification that is highly accurate, provides greater privacy than fingerprinting or retinal scanning, and helps safeguard the integrity of ARDMS examinations.

The digitally encrypted palm vein patterns cannot be read by any other system, and there is no direct contact with the sensor, eliminating the possibility of smudging. Palm vein patterns are invisible and virtually impossible to forge, making the system highly secure. Palm vein mapping, provided by Pearson VUE, improves the check-in process, ensures that each test-taker has a unique record, and prevents people from testing under assumed names.

The palm vein recognition process will not increase the length of the test center admission process and should take less than a minute to complete. Other standard test center admission steps, such as photo ID and signature, will remain in place for all ARDMS candidates.

Letter from the Chair

Developing New Examinations

As an ARDMS volunteer for nearly 20 years, I have had a unique opportunity to “peek under the hood” at the inner workings of ARDMS. One of the most impressive, labor intensive and rigorous activities at ARDMS is the development of a new examination.

ARDMS is currently working to build a new musculoskeletal (MSK) sonography examination. While the “ARDMS Announces the Development of a Musculoskeletal

(Continued on page 2)

Winter 2010

Inside this Issue:

Letter From the Chair 1

ARDMS Website is Re-vamped 3

Introducing MY ARDMS 3

CME Audit—Best Practices 4

Spotlight on a Sonographer: Pat Grier 4

Development of MSK Sonography Credential 5



ARDMS
51 Monroe Street, PE 1
Rockville, MD 20850-2400

www.ARDMS.org

Letter from the Chair ... (Continued from page 1)

Sonography Credential” article in this issue of *Registry Reports* will give you some details about the new MSK program, I thought I would share with you the multi-year process it takes to develop a new ARDMS examination.

ARDMS Examination Development Steps:



- 1. Topic Proposed:** The new examination topic is identified by ARDMS based on trends/advancements in sonography or recommendations through formal petitions by an organization (s) or groups of medical professionals.
- 2. Needs Analysis Study:** A study is conducted to determine if a need exists for the new examination or credential.
- 3. Recommendation & Approval:** Based on the results of the needs analysis study, the Examination Development Committee recommends the new examination to the Board of Directors for development approval.
- 4. Examination Development Task Force (EDTF):** Sonographers and physicians, knowledgeable in the subject area of the new examination, are initially appointed by the ARDMS Board of Directors. EDTF members are instrumental in the development, review, and editing of test content and questions.
- 5. Job Task Analysis (JTA):** EDTF members develop an extensive and detailed JTA survey that is sent to a representative sample of appropriate medical professionals to determine the frequency and importance of tasks performed for a particular sonography discipline.
- 6. Exam Content Outline Development:** Based largely on the results of the Job Task Analysis, the EDTF members develop a content outline for the new examination.
- 7. Item (Question) Development:** Using the content outline as a guide, item writers draft items (questions) for the new examination. Item Reviewers then review, edit and determine which items will be included on the pilot version of the examination.
- 8. Piloting the Exam:** A pilot version of the new examination is administered in proctored testing centers over a specified period. Pilot participants are not provided with their score upon completion of the pilot exam.
- 9. Standard Setting Study:** EDTF members and other subject matter experts review the results of the pilot test to determine the “passing standard/passing scores.” Once the passing standard is determined, test takers from the pilot test are sent their examination score.
- 10. Development of the Final Forms:** Based on the results of the pilot test and standard setting study, the EDTF members assemble the final forms (or versions) of the new examination.
- 11. Launching the New Exam:** Like all existing ARDMS tests, the new examination is administered in proctored testing centers in the US, Canada and select international sites.

As you can see, the process to develop a new exam is lengthy, complex and meticulous. As of February 2010, the development of the new MSK exam is at step four.

Don't forget to visit www.ARDMS.org/Recertification to keep abreast on the development of the ARDMS recertification program.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Prince".

Patricia Prince, RDMS, RVT, RT
Chair, ARDMS Board of Directors

www.ARDMS.org is Revamped

ARDMS has spent the last several months reorganizing the content and updating the look and feel of the website (www.ARDMS.org). We've worked hard to deliver information and resources to the Sonography community in the best and most convenient way. In addition to the already popular PREP Program, Quick Links and Newsletter sections, we've added some new features:

- Enhanced navigation;
- Interactive Credentials & Examinations pathways chart;
- Apply, Prepare & Schedule sections of the website;
- Sections for Students and Educators;
- Examination Development and Scoring section; and
- A News & Multimedia section where you will have access to podcasts, tutorial videos, press releases and current industry news.



Dale Cyr, ARDMS CEO and Executive Director, commented, "The new website conveys important information for the sonography community and the public. We are very excited about the new website and hope it serves as a great resource to all visitors."

We invite you to visit www.ARDMS.org, and check out the latest features today!

Introducing MY ARDMS

Enhance your online ARDMS experience!

ARDMS has changed the name of the Registrant Resources (login) section of www.ARDMS.org to MY ARDMS. MY ARDMS caters to two distinct audiences: Registrants and Registered Users. A Registrant is someone who has earned a credential (RDMS, RVT, RDCS and/or RPVI) with ARDMS. A Registered User is an individual who has applied for an examination and/or taken part of one of the examinations required to earn a credential. Each group will be able to update and manage personal information, view and print receipts and check their registry status. As always, ARDMS is committed to protecting the security and integrity of our Registrants and Applicants personal information.

Visit www.ARDMS.org and log in to [MY ARDMS](#) today!

MYARDMS
Registrar Resources

ARDMS CME Audit - Best Practices

If your three-year CME period was January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2009, you will be notified in March 2010 if you have been selected for audit. At that time, you will be required to mail in your CME documentation with the CME audit form. To check your CME Audit status, obtain your three-year CME period, and to obtain your ARDMS CME transcript, log on to MY ARDMS by visiting www.ARDMS.org.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind for passing your audit:

- Know the ARDMS-accepted CME Sponsors/Providers. Check the ARDMS website www.ARDMS.org/cmeproviders or call the Registrant Services department (800-541-9754).
- Keep good records. Set up a personal filing system to maintain your CME certificates year round.
- Periodically count CME credits earned in the three-year period to ensure you meet the required 30.
- Read and review the Notification of Audit letter, to be mailed in March 2010, in its entirety and if possible, review the preparations used by a colleague who passed a previous CME audit.
- Adhere to the CME Requirements. During any CME audit, Registrants who are discovered to have knowingly falsified documentation or attempted fraud in reporting acceptable CME credit hours may be subject to disciplinary action and possible loss of certification.
- Verify and update your contact information. ARDMS sends notifications via mail, e-mail, and posts notices on MY ARDMS (www.ARDMS.org/login) throughout the year. It is the Registrant's responsibility to update contact information.

Remember, do not submit your CMEs to ARDMS unless you are selected for audit and formally asked to do so in March 2010. Please retain your CME certificates for a minimum of four years in the event that you are audited.

The only CMEs that ARDMS will record are those earned through ARDMS and through the SDMS CME Tracker program. ARDMS Registrants who are also members of the SDMS, your SDMS CME credits will be electronically transferred by the SDMS to ARDMS and will be reflected on your ARDMS CME transcripts.

Below, you will find some common reasons that Registrants fail the CME Audit:

- Submitted a listing of CMEs only and did not submit the required CME certificates.
- Submitted CMEs earned outside the required 3-year period.
- CMEs were submitted by fax (ARDMS only accepts mailed documents).

(Continued on page 5)

Spotlight on a Sonographer - Pat Grier

ARDMS Registrant: Pat Grier, RDMS, RT

ARDMS Registrant Since: 1992

Current Position: Lead Exam Clinical Specialist at ARDMS

If this issue's Spotlight Sonographer seems familiar to you, that is because you may have seen her picture in ARDMS's publications such as the application booklet, the How to Apply Guides, on the ARDMS booth, and many more! Pat Grier joined the ARDMS staff in 2006. Since then, she has been an integral part of the Testing Department. "The clinical expertise that Pat brings to the ARDMS Testing Department allows us to continue our path of rigorous quality assurance for our credentials," said ARDMS CEO and Executive Director, Dale R. Cyr.

Ms. Grier, a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Radiologic Technology in Baltimore, Maryland and Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

ARDMS CME Audit-Best Practices (Continued from page 4)

- CME Sponsor/Provider not approved (for a list of acceptable sponsors/providers, go to www.ARDMS.org/cmeproviders).
- Counted the same CME certificate (s) twice on the audit form so that the true total was fewer than 30.
- Required information (i.e. name/date/course title/approved sponsor/number of credits awarded) missing on the CME certificate.
- Submitted documentation other than an official CME certificate of completion (i.e. course agenda, receipt of payment for CME activity).
- Did not respond to audit.
- Submitted documentation after the due date.

Visit www.ARDMS.org/cme to read more about the ARDMS CME Audit.

joined ARDMS with more than 20 years of diagnostic imaging experience. Previously, Ms. Grier held supervisory and senior-level positions at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins Health Plan, Sinai Hospital, and Siemens Medical Systems.

While at ARDMS, Pat works closely with the clinical subject matter experts who develop and oversee ARDMS examinations. One of her many responsibilities include working with the Exam Development Task Force members in developing the extensive and detailed Job Task Analysis surveys that are sent to a representative sample of medical practitioners to determine the frequency and importance of tasks performed for a particular sonography discipline.



ARDMS Announces the Development of a Musculoskeletal Sonography Credential

In December 2009, the ARDMS Board of Directors approved the development of a Musculoskeletal (MSK) Sonography credentialing examination.

One of the fastest growing sonography disciplines in the world, musculoskeletal sonography is used in the evaluation and treatment of joint and soft-tissue diseases. "The vast majority of MSK sonography studies are performed outside of the United States," said ARDMS CEO, Dale R. Cyr. "ARDMS will be seeking experts from around the world to work with us in developing this truly global credential."

For more information about how ARDMS examinations are developed, please read the "Letter from the Chair" in this edition of *Registry Reports*. Updates on the progress of the MSK exam will be featured in future editions of *Registry Reports* and on the ARDMS website (www.ARDMS.org).



51 Monroe Street, PE 1
Rockville, MD 20850-2400

Registry Reports

Patricia Prince, RDMS, RVT, RT, Chair - ARDMS Board of Directors

Dale R. Cyr, MBA, CAE, RDMS, RDCS, CEO & Executive Director

Jessica McLane Gann, Director of Marketing and Communications

Julia Lee, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Morgan Kreutz, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

"Registry Reports" welcomes submissions from the field.

Send inquiries to communications@ardms.org

Fax: 301.738.0313

"Registry Reports" ©2010, Rockville, Maryland.

The ideas and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of ARDMS.

ONGOING CME COURSE OFFERINGS

For a complete list of ARDMS-accepted CME provider, go to www.ARDMS.org/cme.

Great Lakes Musculoskeletal
Ultrasound Inc. Hands-on MSK
ultrasound scanning training.
SDMS CME credits: 8.0.
www.musculoskeletalultrasoundinc.com

Burwin Institute. Breast sonography,
echocardiography, vascular
ultrasound. (877) 625-5297
www.burwin.com

PVICME. Training in vascular
(including interpretation) and
cardiac ultrasound. (425) 398-7772
www.pvicme.com

Davies Registry Reviews and Study
Aids. Ultrasound education and test
preparation. Books, videos, CD-ROMs
and flashcards. (877) 792-0005
www.daviespublishing.com

ESP Ultrasound. Registry Review
and continuing education.
(281) 292-9400
www.esp-inc.com

Gulfcoast Ultrasound Institute.
St. Pete Beach, Fla. (800) 619-1900
www.gcus.com

Independent Study Aid Courses. CME
credits and Registry review courses.
Vascular physics, vascular technology,
obstetrics and gynecology, abdominal
sonography. (800) 617-3389

Institute for Advanced Medicine.
Interactive learning formats; live patient
assessments; live events including
seminars, symposia and courses;
multimedia applications on CD-ROM
and DVD; Internet-based materials;
and print and journal-based CME.
(919) 921-5700
www.iame.com

Jefferson Ultrasound Institute.
Philadelphia, (888) 390-5051
www.jefferson.edu/jurei/ultrasound

Please note: there is insufficient space for a complete listing of all available ultrasound CMEs. See the CME providers' Web sites for additional ultrasound CME course offerings.



Your one stop to a career in sonography

Find sonography positions with a nationwide listing of jobs, you can search any location in the country.



Are you an employer looking for qualified sonography professionals? Post your listing on Ultrasoundjobs.com to find the perfect candidate.