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# ARDMS Recertification Assessment Program

## Recertification Assessment Program Fast Facts:

- ARDMS credentials will be valid for 10 years
- Assessments to begin in 2019
- All Registrants will be assigned a 10-year period
- No charge for 1st attempt for each specialty
- Online assessments (not at a testing center)
- Open book/resource
- Specialty content only, no general physics
- Approximately 50 questions
- Required standard for ARDMS organizational accreditation

## Why ARDMS is Developing a Recertification Assessment Program:

- The recertification assessment program is being developed to meet a required standard of the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the accreditor of ARDMS. ISO-ANSI stipulates that ARDMS should have a measurable way to assure that Registrants are knowledgeable in current day practice. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits alone cannot prove that an ARDMS Registrant continues to meet the minimum core sonography clinical skills in present day practice;
- The ARDMS recertification assessment program shall benefit patients and the sonography community in that it will maintain ARDMS's ongoing mission to promote quality care and patient safety through the certification and continuing competency of ultrasound professionals;
- In anticipation of state licensure requirements; and
- To elevate the practice of sonography to be aligned with other health care professions.

## Recertification Assessment by Specialty Area:

Registrants will be required to take a recertification assessments in each specialty area they hold active status. For example, a Registrant who holds the RDMS (BR) (OB) and RDCS (AE) credentials will need to take the Breast (BR), Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB) and Adult Echocardiography (AE) recertification assessments. Registrants do not have to take a separate physics instrumentation recertification assessment.

## Current Registrants – What the Recertification Assessment Program Means for You:

Each Registrant who holds an active ARDMS certification as of December 31, 2011 will be assigned the 2012 – 2021 10-year recertification assessment period (see graph below). If a Registrant earns a new credential or specialty after January 1, 2012, then that credential/specialty will have a separate 10-year recertification assessment period that will begin the year following the attainment of the credential/specialty. ARDMS will develop tools and resources to assist Registrants in tracking and meeting the recertification assessment program requirements.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Recertification examinations will not be offered during the first seven years of the 10-year recertification assessment period and Registrants will not have to take any action during this timeframe. Registrants may take their recertification examination(s) between the seventh and tenth years of a 10-year recertification assessment period. All recertification examinations must be completed by the end of the tenth year.							During the last three years of a 10-year recertification assessment period, Registrants will be required to take and pass a recertification examination for each specialty.		

For additional information about the ARDMS Recertification Assessment Program, please visit:

**ARDMS.ORG/RECERTIFICATION**

## **New Registrants (certified after 1/1/2012):**

The 10-year recertification assessment period for first-time Registrants will begin in the year following the attainment of the credential. For example, a person who becomes registered for the first time on March 1, 2012 will be assigned the 2013 – 2022 recertification assessment period. As noted previously, the recertification assessments will be web-based and available online for Registrants to take during the last three years of the 10-year recertification assessment period. If an additional credential/specialty is earned in later years, then that new credential/specialty will have a separate 10-year recertification assessment period that will begin the year following the attainment of the credential/specialty.

### **Administration of the Recertification Assessments:**

Recertification assessments will be web-based and Registrants will take the recertification assessments online from their home or office computers (or possibly tablet computers – such as an iPad). Each specialty recertification assessment will have approximately 50 questions. Registrants may consult reference materials while taking the assessments and will have ample time to take and pass the assessments.

### **Cost and Number of Recertification Assessments Attempts:**

Registrants will have three opportunities to take and pass the recertification assessment(s) for each specialty area. There will be no charge for Registrants who pass the recertification assessment(s) on the first attempt. A fee (the amount has not been determined) will be charged for the second and third attempts. Registrants who are unable to pass the recertification assessment for a specific specialty within three attempts will lose their certification in that specialty. The policies and procedures for regaining a specialty are still being developed.

### **Voluntarily Relinquishing a Credential/Specialty:**

Registrants who do not wish to take a recertification assessment in a specific credential/specialty may voluntarily relinquish the credential/specialty. For example, a Registrant holds the Abdominal (AB) and Neurosonology (NE) specialties within the RDMS credential. The Registrant, who no longer practices Neurosonology, may choose to give up the RDMS (NE) credential and take only the RDMS (AB) recertification assessment. Upon passing the Abdomen (AB) recertification assessment, the Registrant would only hold the RDMS (AB) credential/specialty. The policies and procedures for voluntarily relinquishing a credential/specialty are still being developed.

### **Study & Reference Materials for the Recertification Assessments:**

ARDMS publishes content outlines ([ARDMS.org/Outlines](http://ARDMS.org/Outlines)) for all specialty examinations. The same outlines used for the main specialty credentialing examinations will be used for the recertification specialty assessments. In addition, it is anticipated that sonography organizations and continuing medical education providers will develop study materials and resources in the year or two leading up to the first administration of the recertification assessments (2019).

### **Annual Renewal Fee & CME Requirements for ARDMS Credentials:**

The annual renewal fee and CME requirements for ARDMS credentials will remain in effect. As such, the recertification assessment program, annual renewal fee and CME requirements will constitute the three obligations ARDMS Registrants must meet to maintain active status.

### **Where to Find More Recertification Assessment Program Information:**

The volunteer members of the ARDMS Recertification Task Force, members of the community advisory work group (which includes representatives from leading Sonography organizations) and ARDMS staff are continuing to develop the components and policies of the Recertification Assessment Program. ARDMS will keep Registrants and the Sonography community informed regarding the ongoing developments of the Recertification Assessment Program. Please visit and bookmark the Recertification section of the ARDMS website at [ARDMS.org/Recertification](http://ARDMS.org/Recertification) and watch for updates in ARDMS newsletters *Registry Reports*, *NewsWire* and *Notes for Educators*.

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