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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARDMS Announces Windowed Administrations for the Fetal & Pediatric Echocardiography Credentialing Examinations

(ROCKVILLE, MD, June 3rd, 2013) The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS®) announced today that the Fetal Echocardiography (FE) and Pediatric Echocardiography (PE) specialty examinations will be offered during select windowed administration periods beginning in 2014. The FE and PE specialty examinations will no longer be available on demand year-round. Scores for each windowed examination period will be available approximately sixty (60) days after the testing period ends. The last day to apply for on demand testing is August 31, 2013.

The FE examination may be taken towards either the Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer® (RDMS®) or Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer® (RDCS®) credentials. The PE examination may be taken only for the RDCS credential. Both examinations validate the specialty-specific clinical expertise fundamental for cardiac ultrasound.

The chart below details the administration and application dates. The ARDMS website (www.ARDMS.org) also displays this information and allows interested parties to request reminder e-mails for application periods and examination administration dates.

Fetal and Pediatric Echocardiography Examination Administration Dates	Application Dates (www.ARDMS.org/Apply)
Present – On Demand Testing	Applications accepted through August 31, 2013
March 12, 2014 – April 12, 2014	December 12, 2013 – February 12, 2014
September 10, 2014 – October 11, 2014	June 10, 2014 – August 10, 2014

“Moving highly-specialized, low-volume, exams, like FE and PE, to windowed administrations allows ARDMS to provide more precise scores, update test questions more quickly and enables a level of relevancy, quality, and innovativeness that would not otherwise be possible in year-round testing,” said Ellen Julian, PhD., Director of Testing and Research at ARDMS. “In contrast, ARDMS high-volume examinations, such as the Sonography Principles and Instrumentation (SPI), Abdomen (AB), and Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN), necessitates that test questions be refreshed on an ongoing basis to assure measurement quality and discourage exam content sharing among examinees.”

“I am proud of our proactive approach to move the FE and PE tests to windowed administrations to assure long-term sustained quality and rigor that is synonymous with ARDMS examinations. It’s really the only responsible thing to do,” said Dale Cyr, ARDMS CEO and Executive Director.

Kathy Kendall, BA, RDCS (PE), FASE, Chair of the ARDMS PE Exam Development Task Force (EDTF), said, “With windowed test administration, the data can be accumulated and analyzed for that group with changes becoming available for the next test window. We feel this will make for a better, more up-to-date, PE test.”

“This process will allow plenty of time for all those interested in obtaining a credential in these areas to take the exam, while also allowing for more streamlined development to maintain quality tests,” added, Diana Strickland, BSBA, RDMS, RDCS (FE), Chair of the ARDMS FE Exam Development Task Force (EDTF).

For more information, please visit www.ARDMS.org.

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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 musculoskeletal sonography, diagnostic medical sonography, diagnostic cardiac sonography, vascular technology and physician vascular interpretation. ARDMS credentialing programs (RDMS, RDCS, RVT and RPVI) are accredited by ANSI-ISO 17024 and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). ARDMS has over 80,000 certified individuals in the U.S., Canada, and throughout the world and is the recognized international standard in sonography credentialing.