

Technical Performance Standards

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Technical Standards for the Sonography Profession

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all applicants seeking education or employment be given careful consideration. The Act mandates that reasonable accommodations be provided for individuals with disabilities when necessary. It also supports the identification of essential job functions, which can be used along with other selection criteria to evaluate potential candidates for professional programs or employment.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer plays a vital role in diagnosing patients' medical conditions. This role involves producing diagnostic medical sonograms and assisting with interventional procedures.

Essential job functions for sonographers include demonstrating cognitive, psychomotor, and affective skills. These functions must be performed in a manner that does not endanger the sonographer, their colleagues, or the patients. The following sections will outline the physical, mental, and emotional requirements pertinent to the profession of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Examples of a sonographer's essential job functions

A. Physical Requirements

The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer must be able to:

1. Work standing on his/her feet 80% of the time.
2. Use both hands, wrists, and shoulders to maintain prolonged arm position necessary for scanning and performing fine motor skills.
3. Lift more than 50 pounds routinely.
4. Transport, move, and or lift patients from a wheelchair or stretcher to the examination table or patient bed and physically assist patients into proper positions for examination.



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5. Push, pull, bend, and stoop routinely to move and adjust sonographic equipment and perform studies.

6. Use senses (vision, hearing, and touch) to adequately view sonograms, including color distinctions; distinguish audible sounds; perform eye/hand coordination skills required in sonographic examinations and recognize changes in patient's condition and needs.

7. Work in a semi darkened room for prolonged periods.

8. Be physically capable of carrying out all assigned duties.

B. Mental and Intellectual Requirements

The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer must be able to:

1. Communicate effectively, verbally and non-verbally, with patients and other healthcare professionals to explain procedures, give instructions, and give and obtain information.

2. Organize and accurately perform the individual steps in a sonographic procedure in the proper sequence according to established standards.

3. Understand and react quickly to verbal instructions and patient needs.

4. Follow directions effectively and work closely with members of the healthcare community.

5. View and evaluate recorded images for the purpose of identifying proper protocol, procedural sequencing, technical qualities, and identification of pathophysiology.

6. Apply problem-solving skills to help optimize patient care and produce the best diagnostic information possible.

C. Emotional Requirements

The Diagnostic Medical Sonographer must be able to:

1. Provide physical and emotional support to the patient during sonographic procedures.



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2. Interact compassionately and effectively with the sick and or the injured.
3. Handle stressful situations related to technical and procedural standards and patient care situations.
4. Adapt to changing environments and be able to prioritize tasks.
5. Project an image of professionalism.
6. Demonstrate a high level of compassion for others, a motivation to serve, integrity, and a consciousness of social values.
7. Interact positively with people from all levels of society and all ethnic and religious backgrounds.