

FAQ on Ultrasound for Educational Purposes During Medical College of Georgia's Family Medicine Clerkship



- 1. What ultrasound Images are the students required to obtain?** During their family medicine rotation students will be obtaining images of the Aorta and IVC. Through their D2L account they will have access to the specifics of the assignment. They should review this with you if any questions come up during the rotation about the requirement. Please note that the images are a mandatory part of their rotation.
- 2. Have the students been trained on how to introduce ultrasound to patients?** Yes, every student has had training on the ultrasound images being performed as well as instruction on how to approach patients and describe the ultrasound exam. The ultrasound exams are strictly for educational purposes and students should explain this to the patient. Students should not be making an interpretation of ultrasound findings and should not be discussing any findings with the patient. Please contact us if students are talking to the patient about imaging findings. Please note that images should be limited to the abdominal aorta and IVC.
- 3. What if I do not know how to do the ultrasound?** You are not required to teach the student how to perform the exam. They have all been trained as of July 2017 on the Aorta and IVC exam. The tablet provided with the ultrasound has several resources including an ultrasound handbook and a 20-minute video on how to perform the required ultrasound exam. Students are encouraged to use these if they need a refresher on how to obtain the appropriate images.
- 4. Will there be training for the faculty?** We are working on developing opportunities for faculty education through the ultrasound center. At the moment with a small staff and overwhelming demand for training of students we are not able to offer any in-person training. There are a large number of CME courses offered for those interested in learning the basics of point of care ultrasound <http://www.aium.org/cme/events.aspx> In addition there are several training resources on the tablets themselves including an introduction on how to use the tablet (see tag attached to strap of shoulder bag) including videos on how to perform the abdominal aorta exam and a handbook on point of care ultrasound exams. Copies of these videos and the handbook to access on your personal mobile device as they are available free of charge.
- 5. What if the student finds concerning pathology during their ultrasound exam?** We do not anticipate this being a significant problem. We are encouraging students to obtain ultrasound on young healthy patients. You may contact Matt Lyon via email or phone if a major issue arises. His contact information is on the shoulder bag provided to each student with the ultrasound. We have the capability of reviewing images remotely for review if needed. Since the majority of imaging will be of the Aorta the biggest concern would be finding an aortic aneurysm. If this does occur then the patient should be sent for a complete Aorta ultrasound.
- 6. How will a positive finding be reported by to the community preceptor/practice and patient?** Please see question 5 for more details on this. If a positive aorta screen is noted during our review that was not detected by the student we will contact you. While no patient information is obtained, the students are required to place their name on each imaging study and patient consent is also being obtained so we can narrow down the potential abnormality to a group of patients very quickly. Please note that student

ultrasounds are not intended to substitute for otherwise indicated screening. We discourage providers from deferring or delaying imaging studies they would otherwise do on a patient based on a student report of a normal aorta scan.

- 7. **Can the community practices use the ultrasound for clinical purposes?** We are not in a position to dictate how private practitioners care for their patients in the office setting. That being said we are discouraging the use of the ultrasounds for patient care. The ultrasounds provided to the students are the property of the Medical College of Georgia and are intended to be used for educational purposes only. The process of ultrasound training and credentialing is complex and most certifying organizations recommend a minimum of 800 ultrasounds before practitioners start interpreting images for use in patient practice. Please be aware that there is a potential for patient harm if you are interpreting your own ultrasound images without appropriate training. When in doubt we are encouraging practitioners to have a complete ultrasound performed by a radiologist.
- 8. **Who do the faculty contact if there as an issue with the device or a particular exam?** If there seems to be an issue with the tablet itself please have the student try the normal stuff of restarting and make sure the tablet is connected to a wireless network. If there are ongoing issues with the tablet or the probe the student should get in touch with us at the Ultrasound Center for troubleshooting. You may contact us at any point if there is a concern about a particular exam performed.
- 9. **Who should I contact about logistics/coordination of the use, distribution and dissemination of units and curriculum within the flow of the practice and the clerkship?** David Kriegel or Dayna Seymore in the Department of Family Medicine
- 10. **Can MCG community faculty purchase units for a discounted rate?** There are no discounts available through MCG or Philips at this time. Practitioners can purchase or rent probes directly from the Philips website.
- 11. **Is any patient information being obtained?** No patient information is being stored for these images. Students are required to consent each patient before obtaining the ultrasound images.

Contact Information:

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Free Training Resources:

Videos

1. Introduction to Clinician Based Ultrasound	https://youtu.be/FNix0SukuOA	12:19
2. Evaluation for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm	https://youtu.be/lnNR2IK-m1Y	31:28

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