



Breast Sonography

Candidates applying for certification and registration are required to meet the Professional Requirements specified in the [ARRT Rules and Regulations](#). ARRT's [Breast Sonography Clinical Experience Requirements](#) describe the specific eligibility requirements that candidates must document as part of the application for certification and registration.

The purpose of the clinical experience requirements is to document that candidates have performed a subset of the clinical procedures within a discipline. Successful performance of these fundamental procedures, in combination with mastery of the cognitive knowledge and skills as documented by the examination requirement, provides the basis for the acquisition of the full range of clinical skills required in a variety of settings.

ARRT periodically updates the requirements based on a [practice analysis](#), which is a systematic process to delineate the job responsibilities typically required of breast sonographers. The result of this process is a [task inventory](#). A practice analysis committee then determines the number of clinical procedures required to demonstrate adequate candidate experience in performing the tasks on the inventory.

Candidates for breast sonography certification and registration must document independent completion of breast sonography clinical repetitions according to the criteria noted below in the mandatory and elective procedures sections. Procedures are documented, verified, and submitted when complete via an online worksheet accessible through the candidate's ARRT account on www.arrt.org. ARRT encourages individuals to obtain education and experience beyond these minimum requirements.

A certified and registered technologist, certified sonographer, supervisor, or licensed physician must verify completion of each procedure. The online worksheet describes the verification process.

The candidate may document up to nine sonographic procedures per day in the online worksheet.

Remote scanning is not acceptable for completion of ARRT Clinical Requirements. The candidate must complete the examination or procedure at the facility where the patient and equipment are located. The candidate must be physically present during the examination or procedure.

For postprimary clinical experience requirement procedures, clinical verifiers are responsible for verifying the candidate's completion of procedures in accordance with ARRT requirements. Clinical verifiers are not required to directly observe the candidate performing the procedure and may perform their verification responsibilities remotely.

Specific Procedural Requirements

A. Mandatory Procedures

The candidate must perform a total of 200 breast sonography patient examinations (limited or complete), which they may not simulate. A bilateral sonography examination would be the equivalent of two breast examinations.



When performing the examinations, the candidate must appropriately demonstrate the following for each examination performed:

- evaluation of the requisition and/or medical record
- review of relevant imaging studies
- preparation of the examination room
- identification of the patient
- assessment and education of the patient concerning the examination
- proper positioning of the patient
- selection of the protocol
- optimization of the image (e.g.,* transducer selection, focal zone, depth, overall gain)
- evaluation of the resulting images for:
 - image quality (e.g., artifacts)
 - optimal demonstration of anatomic region and pathology
 - exam completeness
- presentation of clinical findings and images to the radiologist (virtually or in person) for final interpretation, using appropriate terminology (e.g., echogenicity, shape, margins, orientation)
- archiving of images
- documentation of the examination and patient data in medical record
- adherence to CDC Standard Precautions for infection prevention

B. Elective Procedures

The candidate must participate in at least 20 breast sonography elective procedures chosen from the following list. Any combination that adds up to 20 is acceptable. For example, a candidate may participate in 20 core biopsies; or a candidate may participate in 10 core biopsies, six clip placements, and four needle localizations.

- fluid aspiration (abscess, seroma, cyst)
- fine needle aspiration
- needle core biopsy (e.g., spring-loaded)
- vacuum-assisted core biopsy
- clip placement
- pre-op needle localization (e.g., wire, non-wire)

Participation is defined as actual performance of the following activities: prepare patient (e.g., explain procedure, verify informed consent), select and prepare equipment, perform time out procedure, position patient, practice infection control and prevention, and provide post-procedural care and instructions.

If the facility and/or the patient population limit the candidate's ability to complete the elective procedures and therefore the candidate is unable to demonstrate knowledge and competency of the requirement, the candidate may contact ARRT using the Message Center in their online ARRT account, or call the Education Requirements Department at 651.687.0048, or our toll-free number 877.560.ARRT (2778). Select the option for earning an ARRT credential.

*"e.g." indicates examples of the topics covered, but is not a complete list