



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 must be documented as part of the application for certification and registration process.

The purpose of the clinical experience requirements is to verify that candidates have completed 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 covered by the examination, provides the basis for the acquisition of the full range of clinical skills required in a variety of settings.

The requirements are periodically updated based upon 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. An advisory 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 performance of a minimum of 220 repetitions of breast sonography procedures according to the criteria noted below. Procedures are documented, verified and submitted when complete via an online tool accessible through My ARRT Info account on arrt.org. ARRT encourages individuals to obtain education and experience beyond these minimum requirements.

Completion of each procedure must be verified by a certified and registered technologist, certified sonographer, supervisor, or licensed physician. The verification process is described within the online tool.

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 may not be simulated. A bilateral examination would be the equivalent of two breast examinations.

When performing the examinations, the candidate must demonstrate appropriate:

- evaluation of requisition and/or medical record
- preparation of examination room
- identification of patient
- patient assessment and education concerning the procedure
- patient positioning
- protocol selection
- image optimization (*e.g., transducer selection, focal zone, FOV)



- image archiving
- documentation of procedure and patient data in appropriate record
- CDC Standard Precautions
- correlation of adjunct imaging studies to breast ultrasound and evaluate the resulting images for:
 - image quality (e.g., artifacts)
 - optimal demonstration of anatomic region and pathology
 - exam completeness

*e.g., This is used here and in the remainder of this document to indicate examples of the topics covered, but not a complete list.

B. Elective Procedures

The candidate must participate in at least 20 interventional 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 biopsy
- needle core biopsy (e.g., spring-loaded)
- vacuum-assisted core biopsy
- clip placement
- pre-op needle localization (e.g., wire, seed)

Participation is defined as actual performance of the following activities: patient preparation (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.

Observation and simulation of the interventional procedures may be possible if the candidate is limited by the facility and the patient population to complete the interventional procedures. Please contact the Education Requirements Department at 651-687-0048 and select the option for earning ARRT credentials.