

Sutherland Hospital Emergency Department

Point of Care Ultrasound Use and Credentialing Guidelines

This policy is designed to ensure best practice in the use of Point of Care Ultrasound in the ED.

Scope of Practice:

- Procedural guidance: vascular access, nerve block, draining effusions
- Focussed ultrasound for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)
- Extended Focussed Abdominal Sonography in Trauma (EFAST)
- Basic echo in Life Support (BELS)
- Proximal Deep Vein Thrombosis
- Basic Early Pregnancy
- Biliary
- Lung
- Renal

Who can perform these scans?:

FACEMs and Emergency Trainees who fulfil 1 of the following:

- Approved by the ED Director/Clinical Lead in Ultrasound **or**,
- Completion of an instructional workshop recognised by ACEM/ASUM in one or more of the above modules **or**,
- Currently undertaking ACEM credentialing or enrolled in the ASUM Certificate in Clinician Performed Ultrasound (CCPU) credentialing process.

Who can act on these scans?:

FACEMs and Emergency Trainees who are:

- ACEM/ASUM credentialed in one or more of the above modules **or**,
- FACEMs deemed suitably experienced in ultrasound who have been approved by the ED Director and Clinical Lead in Ultrasound.

For EFAST, AAA and Basic Echo in Life Support (BELS) an un-credentialed ED Clinician may act on their scan in the following circumstances:

- Clinical urgency demands immediate action **AND**
- A credentialed ED doctor is not on site **AND**
- The doctor performing the scan is undertaking ACEM/ASUM credentialing for EFAST/AAA/Basic Echo in Life Support modules and informs other clinicians involved in the case that they are not fully credentialed **AND**
- The doctor performing the scan is satisfied that the images obtained rule in/out the pathology in question (if there is doubt, the ED doctor will urgently discuss the case with the FACEM on call)

Expectations of Ultrasound Users at The Sutherland Hospital ED

- Independent use of the ultrasound machines should follow training on that model by a FACEM or ultrasound company representative.
- Completion of the ***UTECECI online ultrasound training modules*** if an ACEM/ASUM instructional workshop has not previously been attended.
- Maintenance of a Point of Care Ultrasound (PoCUS) logbook.
- Entry of at least 4 data points for each scan: Patient first and last name, MRN, DOB, Operator which is inline with the ***ECI Emergency Focussed Ultrasound Checklist***.
- Adherence with the ***Sutherland Hospital Daily Ultrasound Machine Cleaning Guidelines***.
- All PoCUS scans to be reviewed by a credentialed provider (sonographer/CCPU holder or ACEM credentialed clinician), ideally at the time of scanning.
- If a credentialed provider is not immediately available, the saved image series can be reviewed away from the bedside but the timeframe for this must reflect the clinical urgency.
- Documentation of all scans in EMR that have been reviewed by a credentialed provider/FACEM taking responsibility for the ultrasound scan.
- The use of a separate progress note titled, '***ED Point of Care Ultrasound Examination***' within EMR. ***ED PoCUS Documentation Proformas*** are recommended by the Ultrasound Faculty to document findings within the PoCUS note.