The answer you need is at your fingertips.

Vascular Certified for CMS

Morning All~

I am wondering if anyone can tell me if you have heard or are aware that US techs who perform Vascular studies for CMS patients need to be certified in Vascular.

Thank you for your feedback..

RE: Vascular Certified for CMS

Through my research (for Louisiana), I have found that CMS requires:

All non-invasive vascular diagnostic studies performed by a technologist must be performed by, or under the direct supervision of, a technologist who has demonstrated competency by being credentialed in vascular technology; or, such studies must be performed in a facility accredited by ICAVL or ACR. Examples of appropriate certification include the credentials: RVT, RCVT, VS. Direct supervision requires the credentialed individual’s presence in the facility and immediate availability to the technologist performing the study.

Previously, a facility could get away with not having all technologists vascular registered by being accredited by ICAVL or ACR. However, as of 1/31/17, if you are accredited by ICAVL, ICAVL requires all technologists who perform vascular to be vascular registered. If they are not, they have to have a vascular registered sonographer on the same shift available for direct supervision. This poses two challenges:

1. Many facilities staff only 1 sonographer on nights or weekends, so staff on these shifts must have vascular certification.
2. Through ICAVL, new grads have 1 year to achieve vascular certification; however, with this, a facility could not hire a new grad onto a shift where they work alone at any point.

If you are accredited by ACR, there is some wiggle room as ACR states that if the vascular test is ordered after hours and on weekends as STAT, then a non-vascular sonographer can perform the exam. We looked into this, but ACR seems to want you be accredited in all body parts (vascular, OB, Abdomen, etc.) and we were not prepared to do that at this time as we are currently with ICAVL and have a deadline to meet of 1/31/17.

I hope this info helps. If I have misinterpreted any info from my research, I welcome corrections!!

I would definitely research by your state and also look into ACR further, which may still do at a later date.