

Ultrasound accreditation support through a new Quality Assurance Program

Partnering with Ultrasound Service provides a solution to the image quality and system performance documentation.

Accreditation certification can seem like an overwhelming process. That's why GE Healthcare Ultrasound Service has introduced the Quality Assurance (QA) Program. This program covers the equipment performance and image quality system checks specified by the American College of Radiology and other accrediting bodies.

What the QA Program entails

The QA Program consists of two elements: Equipment Quality Checks (EQC) and Image Quality Checks (IQC). Both are on-site, periodic evaluations.

- EQCs verify system performance, routine maintenance and include baseline image control of transducers associated with a system. A full unit inspection is designed to verify the electrical and mechanical integrity of systems, peripherals and transducers.
- IQCs provide periodic transducer image tracking inspection and documentation. They verify that image quality is consistent with the baseline check.



What do QA Program participants receive?

Those purchasing the QA Program receive documentation of EQCs and IQCs, performed by GE ultrasound field engineers. The goal is to provide you with easy access to multiple years of data and documentation. Participants receive the following:

- Archival of phantom images stored on a DVD
- Hard copy/e-copies of system inspection check list
- Hard copy/e-copies of image quality checks
- Auto scheduling of periodic QA evaluations
- An accreditation portfolio for storing service documents and required images

The QA Program is available to most ultrasound users. Contract customers will be able to increase coverage to meet their required accreditation standards. Customers currently not under a GE service contract, or using non-GE equipment, can still participate. Your local GE representative will provide you with program details and associated costs.

Is the QA Program right for you?

There are many reasons for obtaining outside accreditation. If you answer yes to any of the following questions, you may benefit from seeking accreditation and using the QA Program.

- **Reimbursement:** Are your healthcare management organizations requiring accreditation for reimbursement? Or, are they planning to adjust reimbursement if you don't obtain accreditation?

- **Assuring best practices:** Are you standardizing your policies and procedures? Accreditation is a peer review and an educationally focused evaluation of your practices. Accreditation shows commitment to the integrity of patient care. It can also serve as a means to attract and retain quality sonographers.
- **Differentiation:** Are you living in a competitive market? Accreditation is a visible sign of quality processes for patient care. Facilities can promote that they have gone through the review and that processes have been accepted by an accrediting body.
- **Staff efficiency:** Is your staff working to its maximum capacity? Let your clinicians focus on their daily tasks without worrying about system performance and image quality checks required by accreditation organizations.
- **Budgetary constraints:** Do you have limited purchasing power to obtain tools and training for accreditation? Filing for accreditation requires acquiring and maintaining calibrated phantoms, training and certification on image acquisition, and equipment performance.

Accreditation demonstrates to patients, insurance companies and communities that you voluntarily adhere to high practices, equipment standards and quality assurance guidelines.

Eliminate your system documentation gathering and filing by having one of our service personnel create your QA Program folder. For more information on the GE Ultrasound Accreditation Support program, contact your GE representative at 888-434-8666.

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