MFM Foundation Guidelines
NTQR Credentialing for Sonographers

Preamble:
The Maternal Fetal Medicine Foundation recommends nuchal translucency (NT) credentialing for all
physician sonologists and sonographers involved in first trimester Down Syndrome risk assessment.
The Maternal Fetal Medicine Foundation is committed to NT credentialing of both
members of the team, not just the person who scans, to establish a team approach and to meet the
recommendations of the ACOG Practice Bulletin Number 77 titled Screening for Fetal
Chromosomal Anomalies. Ongoing quality monitoring of both sonographers and supervising
sonologists helps insure that patients receive the most accurate first trimester risk assessment
possible.

Sonographers entering the NTQR program are responsible for maintaining a comprehensive sonography
credential with relevant obstetrical content provided by a nationally recognized agency. The NTQR
endorses sonographer education and certification as required by the AIUM for obstetrical laboratory
accreditation (currently the ARDMS OB/GYN credential).

MFM Foundation Guidelines for Sonographer Credentialing
Credentialing for sonographer participants in the NTQR program requires didactic education,
successful completion of a written examination, and evidence of image proficiency.

1) Didactic Evaluation
   a) All sonographer participants must take the prescribed didactic course that has been
specifically developed for sonographers and pass a written examination that demonstrates
their ability to perform the sonography component of first trimester Down Syndrome risk
assessment. The course and examination are different from those required for physician
sonologists.
   b) Successful completion of the exam will require didactic knowledge of the principals of first
trimester risk assessment as well as confirmation of the ability of the examinee to identify
appropriately performed NT images that meet the guidelines for image quality.

2) Image Submission
   a) Images sent in for credentialing review must be acquired by the participating sonographer
seeking credentialing.
   b) Submitted images must not have been previously used for credentialing by any one else.
   c) A credentialed sonographer may assist with image acquisition by a supervising sonologist
for supervising sonologist credentialing but the supervising sonologist must select the
desired images for submission. These images must be different from those images submitted by
the sonographer for his/her image proficiency evaluation.

The MFM Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. This practice bulletin was developed by the Nuchal Translucency
Oversight Committee of the MFM Foundation. The information is designed to aid practitioners in making decisions about
appropriate maternal fetal care. These guidelines should not be construed as dictating an exclusive course of treatment or
procedure. Variations in practice may be warranted based on the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations
unique to the institution or type of practice.