



PERINATAL QUALITY FOUNDATION NTQR Credentialing for Sonographers

Preamble:

The Perinatal Quality Foundation (formerly Maternal Fetal Medicine Foundation) recommends nuchal translucency (NT) credentialing for all physician sonologists and sonographers involved in first trimester Down Syndrome risk assessment. The Perinatal Quality 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).

Perinatal Quality 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.

1) 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 Perinatal Quality Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit entity. The Nuchal Translucency Oversight Committee of the Perinatal Quality Foundation developed this practice bulletin. 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.