

## **SCHOOL OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

Applicants must perform medical procedures with accuracy and precision. The nature of the work is such that speed, safety and accuracy are essential skills. While failure to perform these essential functions may not prevent individuals from practicing in the clinical setting, lack of any or all of these abilities may prove challenging to the work experience and may compromise patient safety or the diagnostic value of procedures.

In order to be considered for admission, applicants must be able to, with or without reasonable accommodation, demonstrate the ability to meet the following technical standards which are considered essential functions and skills of the profession.

### **COGNITIVE DOMAIN**

- Read, comprehend and record technical and medical information accurately and efficiently.
- Read and interpret patient records and clinical paperwork in both written and electronic formats.
- Observe patients up to 15 feet away during procedures.
- Observe patients via television monitor.
- Organize and perform the individual steps in a sonographic procedure in a logical, expedient sequence.
- Measure, calculate, analyze, and integrate information obtained during the exam to provide diagnostic information to the reading physician.
- Provide quality patient care at all times through patient observation and comprehension of patient records.
- Assess patient condition and formulate appropriate action plans according to patient abilities and limitations.
- Adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and effectively function in an environment of unexpected situations inherent to clinical practice.
- Rapidly respond to emergency signals and alarms.
- Integrate training from several sources to problem solve in a quick, accurate, and highly coordinated manner.
- Follow written and oral instructions from physicians and coworkers.
- Provide written and oral summary of diagnostic findings to the physician.
- Evaluate images and formulate corrective actions as necessary to improve diagnostic quality and patient positioning.
- Multitask and complete tasks and assignments to meet established deadlines.
- Differentiate anatomical structures on sonographic images.
- Differentiate color distinctions in the sonographic exam.
- Transfer knowledge gained from one patient to another, one room to another, or one clinical site to another.
- Process and interpret feedback, both verbal and written, from supervising sonographers and physicians and use it to modify and improve clinical performance.
- Apply didactic theory to the clinical environment to determine proper exam parameters in an expedient manner.
- Explain the steps involved in performing complex tasks and protocols.
- Interpret and apply professional ethical standards.

**PSYCHOMOTOR DOMAIN**

- Respond to patients' needs, communicated in an average tone, from as far away as 15 feet.
- Consistently discern a variety of signals on imaging equipment, phones and patient care devices.
- Assist patients to and from exam tables, wheelchairs, and stretchers.
- Manipulate equipment in both the department and portable ultrasound devices. This includes pushing, pulling, raising, lowering, and adjusting equipment to achieve desired outcomes.
- Manually position patients and align the sound beam to anatomical structures.
- Stand and / or walk unassisted for up to eight hours a day.
- Move independently about the department, hospital, clinical facility and / or patient rooms in an expedient manner.
- Perform essential job-related functions including button manipulation on equipment, switches, keyboards, and foot pedals.
- Lift more than 50 pounds routinely.
- Manipulate equipment with both hands, wrists and shoulders independently.
- Perform and monitor patient vital signs including blood pressure, pulse and respiratory rates.

**AFFECTIVE DOMAIN**

- React calmly and effectively in stressful environments.
- Communicate with patients, doctors and other personnel clearly and effectively in the English language using appropriate medical terminology.
- Understand and respond to non-verbal communication.
- React and respond quickly and safely to emergency situations.
- Communicate with patients in a manner displaying compassion and empathy.
- Monitor and adapt one's own behavior based on feedback from instructors and clinical staff in order to demonstrate a commitment to professional practice.
- Effectively use verbal and non-verbal methods of communication when interacting with patients.
- Demonstrate sensitivity towards individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
School of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

**PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

I, (name) \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective requirements for the sonography program and profession. I am able to meet the program technical standards.

Furthermore, if I am accepted into the program, I understand that I must obtain a written statement from my healthcare provider stating that I am able to meet the program technical standards.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature      date

**This form must be signed and submitted with the program application.**