



Independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

Consensus Criteria Permitting Endocrinologists to Officially Interpret as well as Perform Diagnostic Head and Neck Ultrasounds and Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration (UGFNA) in the evaluation of thyroid and parathyroid disorders.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) medical directorship and the American College of Endocrinology (ACE) have established the following criteria. Please note that Endocrinologists must **fully satisfy any one of the first four conditions, as well as the fifth, sixth, and seventh** conditions.

1. Any Board Certified Endocrinologist

OR

2. Endocrinologist who finished their endocrinology training before 1972

OR

3. Board Eligible Endocrinologists currently in clinical practice within 2 years of completion of their training

OR

4. Any Endocrinology Fellow in an Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) approved Endocrinology Program in their last year of training:

5. Who

Prior to January 1, 2011:

- a) Successfully completed with CME documentation a previous AACE Basic Thyroid Ultrasound Course (i.e. AACE Thyroid Ultrasound Accreditation Course, AACE Accreditation Course for Thyroid Ultrasound and Ultrasound Guided FNA Biopsy, AACE Thyroid Ultrasound and FNA Biopsy Accreditation Course®, or AACE Diagnostic Endocrine Neck Ultrasound & UGFNA Course®)

As of January 1, 2011:

Has attained the **American Institute of Medicine (AIUM)** recognized, Endocrine Certification in Neck Ultrasound (ECNU) credential through American College of Endocrinology (ACE).

AND

6. The physician as the primary reader must officially interpret at least 100 studies over one (1) year.

7. The physician must be able to provide evidence of an **ongoing** quality assurance program **including:**

proof of submission of studies for review and deemed satisfactory by ACE's ECNU certification program when available;

15 hours of ongoing CME every 3 years in areas of general and neck ultrasound and thyroid and parathyroid disorders;

confirmation of ultrasound diagnoses by surgical histology:

ongoing tracking of outcomes and procedural complications.

Geographic access and other exceptional circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.