XIV. TAKING THE NEXT STEP – AIUM PRACTICE ACCREDITATION

Earning the ECNU credential demonstrates commitment to yourself and your competence in providing high quality care for patients with thyroid disorders. As you continue to work towards promoting optimal care for all people with thyroid disorders, you have another opportunity to show your patients that your practice has taken steps to demonstrate the overall quality of the ultrasound services you provide. The American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) provides solo practitioners and large group practices the opportunity to show that they meet nationally recognized standards in the performance and interpretation of diagnostic ultrasound through its Ultrasound Practice Accreditation.

14.1. BACKGROUND

The AIUM strives to continuously improve the quality of diagnostic ultrasound services by offering ultrasound practice accreditation. AIUM ultrasound practice accreditation is a voluntary peer review process that allows practices to demonstrate that they meet or exceed nationally recognized standards in the performance and interpretation of diagnostic ultrasound examinations. The accreditation process encourages providers of diagnostic ultrasound services to assess their strengths and weaknesses and initiate changes to improve their practices.

Practices accredited by the AIUM have demonstrated competency in every aspect of their operation, including:

- Personnel Education, Training, and Experience
- Document Storage and Record Keeping
- Policies and Procedures Safeguarding Patients, Ultrasound Personnel, and Equipment
- Instrumentation
- Quality Assurance
- Case Studies

Diagnostic medical ultrasound makes important contributions to patient care and may be used in a variety of settings. Ultrasound practice accreditation is designed to set a standard of quality for the performance of basic ultrasound procedures. These Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Ultrasound Practices specify minimum training, experience, credentialing, and continuing medical education requirements for medical staff and personnel who perform and interpret diagnostic ultrasound examinations. Furthermore, these Standards specify the requirements for safety, maintenance, and calibration of equipment, staff performance, reports, record keeping, and quality assurance for clinical practices where studies are performed.

Dedicated Thyroid/Parathyroid Ultrasound is one of the specialties eligible for ultrasound practice accreditation. The completed application and supporting documents are reviewed by the AIUM’s Ultrasound Practice Accreditation Program’s peer reviewers. Reaccreditation is required every 3 years.
14.2. WHY SHOULD YOUR PRACTICE SEEK AIUM PRACTICE ACCREDITATION

- Exhibit commitment to clinical excellence
- Display commitment to the highest quality patient care.
- Provide credibility to peers and patients.
- Demonstrate that the accredited practice meets the quality assurance requirements of a growing number of insurance companies.
- Meet the requirements of a growing number of insurers.
- Your competitors are accredited... why not you?

14.3. WHY APPLY FOR AIUM PRACTICE ACCREDITATION SOON AFTER EARNING YOUR ECNU CREDENTIAL

Practices applying for AIUM accreditation in thyroid/parathyroid ultrasound for the first time are eligible for a discounted accreditation fee, and are not required to submit case studies if the person designated as the physician director of ultrasound received ECNU certification within the previous 12 months. Practices that do not meet these requirements, and practices that are applying for reaccreditation are not eligible for the case study exemption or the discount.

Take advantage of this opportunity to fast-track the AIUM application process.

14.4. HOW TO APPLY FOR AIUM’S ULTRASOUND PRACTICE ACCREDITATION

The AIUM’s ultrasound practice accreditation will include demonstration of provider’s competency in every aspect of its operation, including education and training of physicians and sonographers, ultrasound equipment maintenance, document storage, policies safeguarding patients and personnel, and accuracy in diagnosis. For more information regarding the AIUM’s accreditation process, see:

http://www.aium.org/accreditation/accreditation.aspx