



# Breast Sonography

Candidates for certification and registration are required to meet the Professional Requirements specified in the *ARRT Rules and Regulations*. *ARRT's Breast Sonography Clinical Experience Requirements* describe the specific eligibility requirements that must be documented as part of the application for certification and registration process.

The purpose of the clinical experience requirements is to verify that candidates have completed a subset of the clinical procedures within a discipline. Successful performance of these fundamental procedures, with mastery of the cognitive knowledge and skills covered by the examination provides the basis for the acquisition of the full range of clinical skills required in a variety of settings.

The job responsibilities typically required of breast sonographers are delineated through a periodic practice analysis. This results in a "task inventory." An advisory committee then determines the number of clinical procedures required to demonstrate adequate candidate experience in performing the tasks on the inventory.

Candidates for Breast Sonography certification and registration must document performance of a minimum of 220 repetitions of breast sonography procedures according to the criteria noted below. Procedures are documented, verified and submitted when complete via an online tool accessible through My ARRT Info account on [arrt.org](http://arrt.org). ARRT encourages individuals to obtain education and experience beyond these minimum requirements.

Completion of each procedure must be verified by a certified and registered technologist, certified sonographer, supervisor or licensed physician. The verification process is described within the online tool.

## Specific Procedural Requirements

### A. Mandatory Procedures

The candidate must perform a total of 200 breast sonography patient examinations, which may not be simulated.

When performing the examinations, the candidate must demonstrate appropriate:

- evaluation of requisition and/or medical record
- preparation of examination room
- identification of patient
- patient assessment and education concerning the procedure
- patient positioning
- protocol selection
- image optimization (\*e.g., transducer selection, focal zone, FOV)
- image archiving
- documentation of procedure and patient data in appropriate record
- CDC Standard Precautions
- correlation of adjunct imaging studies to breast sonogram

and evaluate the resulting images for:

- image quality (e.g., artifacts)
- optimal demonstration of anatomic region and pathology
- exam completeness

\*e.g., This is used here and in the remainder of this document to indicate examples of the topics covered, but not a complete list.



## **B. Elective Procedures**

The candidate must participate in at least 20 interventional procedures chosen from the following list. Any combination that adds up to 20 is acceptable. For example, a candidate may participate in 20 core biopsies; or a candidate may participate in 10 core biopsies, six clip placements, and four needle localizations.

- fluid aspiration
- fine needle aspiration
- core biopsy
- vacuum-assisted biopsy
- clip placement
- needle localization

Participation is defined as actual performance of the following activities: patient preparation (e.g., explain procedure, verify informed consent); select and prepare equipment, perform time out procedure, position patient, practice infection control and prevention, and provide post-procedural care and instructions.

Observation and simulation of the interventional procedures may be possible if the candidate is limited by the facility and the patient population to complete the interventional procedures. Please contact the Clinical Requirements Department at 651-687-0048, ext. 8570 for more information.