



Diagnostic Ultrasound and Ultrasound Guided Interventional Radiology

Expectations and responsibilities

Purpose

This position statement clarifies ACC's expectations of radiology practices carrying out diagnostic ultrasound and ultrasound guided interventional radiology for a condition that ACC has covered. It outlines the responsibilities of the radiologist when treating ACC clients and clarifies the role of the radiologist and sonographer. This statement applies to the procedures performed under ACC High Tech Imaging Services contract and Cost of Treatment Regulations.

This position aligns with the position held by the Medical Council of New Zealand and RANZCR.

Diagnostic Ultrasound

Expectations of the Radiology Practice

- Ensure the ultrasound equipment is appropriate for its intended use, is regularly maintained and is serviced by manufacturer-certified service engineers.
- Where the practice provides musculoskeletal ultrasound services, their equipment must have the appropriate software.
- Enable access to a picture archiving and communication (PAC) system to store and share images.
- Must share reports and images with other health professionals in a timely manner.
- Must have immediately available clinical guidance from the reporting radiologist for practices that have sonographers performing ultrasound examinations in rural and remote locations.

Responsibilities of the Radiologist

- Under the High Tech Imaging contract ACC is funding the radiologist to perform diagnostic ultrasound.
- Under Radiology Cost of treatment of Regulations ACC is funding the radiologist or medical practitioner (who is registered in a general scope of practice, or is registered in the general practice vocational scope of practice, and holds a licence under the Radiation Safety Act 2016) to perform diagnostic ultrasound.
- The radiologist /medical practitioner takes responsibility for:
 - being available (physically or virtually) to guide the diagnostic process. This may include being called upon to discuss and influence the conduct of the examination
 - reviewing all images/cine loops
 - validating assessment findings
 - creating and signing off each individual report.
- Recommendations around further imaging and/or intervention require careful consideration as they can set client expectation and put the treating provider in a challenging position.

Key Documents

- **RANZCR Standards of Practice for Clinical Radiology**
- **ACC Working together. A handbook for providers working under the Cost of Treatment Regulations**

Ultrasound Guided Interventional Procedures

Expectations of the Radiology Practice

- Under the High Tech Imaging contract ultrasound guided injections must be performed by a vocationally registered radiologist.
- Under Radiology Cost of Treatment Regulations, ultrasound guided injections must be performed by a vocationally registered radiologist or medical practitioner (who is registered in a general scope of practice, or is registered in the general practice vocational scope of practice, and holds a licence under the Radiation Safety Act 2016).
- **Please note:** These guidelines are specific to the High Tech Imaging contract and Radiology Cost of Treatment Regulations. Other medical professionals may be able to perform ultrasound guided injections under other ACC contracts and Cost of Treatment Regulations, ie., a medical practitioner providing an ultrasound guided injection under the Medical Practitioners', Nurses' and Nurse Practitioners' Costs of Treatment Regulations.

Responsibilities of the Radiologist

- Obtain informed consent.
- Perform the procedure, including pre- and post-intervention assessments and care.
- Be trained in performing the interventional procedures and maintain competency specific to the range of interventional procedures they are performing.
- Ensure interventional radiology immediately after a diagnostic ultrasound should only be done by a radiologist.
- Be trained in all aspects of post-procedure care and be responsible for management of any post-procedure complications including anaphylaxis.

Key Documents

- ***RANZCR Position Statement on the Provision of Ultrasound Guided Injections***
- ***MCNZ statement on good prescribing practice***
- ***Ministry of Health Standing Order Guidelines***