



STEP

skills | training | evaluation | performance

Step 3 - Hands-on Skills Assessment Overview

Introduction

The skills assessment is designed to be a physical test of manual, technical and dexterity skills. The goals of the skills assessment are:

- Make sure that you know how to operate an ultrasound machine
- Can identify how to correctly hold and orient the transducer when performing a scan
- Can obtain optimal images of the structures of interest
- Can identify normal tissues as well as pathology.

During the assessment, the examiner and a score keeper will evaluate your ability to identify specific structures, use appropriate ergonomics, and will assess your ability to demonstrate image optimization skills. These skills will include:

- Optimizing gain, depth, and focal zone placement
- Centering the structure of interest in the center of the screen and focal zone
- Using transducer manipulation techniques to minimize anisotropy such as wag/tilt, pivot, and heel-toe manipulations
- Using proper ergonomic set up and positioning of the subject to facilitate efficient and safe scanning

The skills assessment will include a total of 4 stations. Models will be used at the first 3 stations. The fourth station will utilize a model for a portion of the module and a blue phantom for the remaining portion. You will have 20 minutes to complete each station and will be given a warning when there is 10 minutes left at each station. A passing score of 70% or higher must be achieved at each station in order to receive a 'pass' status for the entire skills assessment. The following is a description of each station.

Station 1 - MSK-Shoulder

This station will test your ability to demonstrate a regional sonographic exam. The shoulder was chosen because it demands a variety of skills and in general is pertinent to a physiatric practice. At this station, you will be asked to perform a complete diagnostic ultrasound examination of the shoulder. This requires that you correctly image and identify all of the structures that are required for a complete exam and label the various structures accordingly.

At the start of the skills assessment, the examiner will request that you select the appropriate machine settings and transducers for a shoulder examination.

You will need to provide optimal views of all shoulder structures in the shoulder protocol. You will need to be able to identify these structures and demonstrate the ability to label several of them.

You will also be asked to answer questions about 3 separately supplied images that will relate to commonly seen findings in a shoulder exam



STEP

skills | training | evaluation | performance

Station 2 - Neuromuscular Evaluation

At this station, you will be asked to identify a number of structures including upper extremity nerves and muscles.

Station 3 - Neuromuscular Structures of the Upper and Lower Extremities

At this station, you will be assessed on your ability to obtain optimal images of a number of structures in the upper and lower limbs

Station 4 - US-guided Procedures

This station will be an evaluation of your understanding of ultrasound guidance including indications, set up, procedural understanding, technical and manual skills including artifacts and needle localization techniques, and also proper documentation.

Assessment Results

At the conclusion of the skills assessment, the examiners' scores will be collected and you will be informed of the results 3 weeks following the Assembly. You will also be asked for your feedback on the assessment process and your overall experience.