
Yale New Haven Health

Emergency Services

Educational Ultrasounds Guidelines

Original: 07/2007

Last Reviewed: 08/18

Purpose:

To provide care guidelines for the use of bedside ultrasound for education within the emergency department.

Background:

The use of bedside ultrasound for focused, goal-directed examinations, performed at the bedside by an emergency physician is increasingly recognized as within the scope of practice of emergency medicine. Provision of education for Emergency Medicine Residents in this modality is a requirement of the Residency Review Committee (RRC), under the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Additionally, the performance of educational ultrasounds by attending physicians is a necessary step towards privileging in bedside ultrasound.

Guidelines for Care

- Educational ultrasounds are performed on patients in the emergency department.
- An educational ultrasound is not intended to replace formal imaging performed on the patient, and when medically indicated will be followed by an appropriate confirmatory study in radiology
- Educational ultrasounds are performed by emergency medicine residents under the guidance of emergency medicine faculty.
- All ED physicians who have undergone introductory training with the equipment and who have signed the SEM internal document stating that they are aware of all policies and procedures related to educational ultrasounds are privileged to perform them.