



## **5 - Emergency Department Ultrasound**

(Adopted 4/00, Reaffirmed 10/14)

Examination by ultrasound should be available in a timely 24-hour basis for all emergency patients.

The emergency physician who has completed appropriate ultrasound training is ideally suited to perform goal-directed ultrasound examinations. The immediate information that can be obtained through these studies may expedite the care and disposition of acutely ill or injured patients.

To assist its members in the description of ultrasound use by emergency physicians, the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians endorses the following principles:

1. Emergency Department ultrasound is within the scope or practice of the emergency physician.
2. Emergency physicians utilizing ultrasound-imaging technology should demonstrate appropriate training and experience in order to perform and interpret these studies.
3. Emergency physicians should stay up-to-date in the most recent advances in ultrasound through continued education.
4. The need for confirmatory studies should be determined by the emergency physician.
5. Clinical indications for ultrasonographic examination by an emergency physician may include, but not be limited to:
  1. Abdominal aneurysm
  2. Abdominal trauma through focused assessment with sonography with trauma, i.e., FAST exam
  3. Pregnancy viability with ectopic pregnancy
  4. Cardiac trauma and dysfunction
  5. Biliary tract evaluation
  6. Renal tract evaluation
  7. Central line and peripheral IV placement
  8. Foreign body identification
  9. Deep vein thrombosis
  10. Ocular evaluation
  11. Arterial occlusion
  12. Soft tissue abscess evaluation
  13. Pneumothorax evaluation
  14. Death determination