



**DATE: March 5, 2014**

**TO: Sonography Canada Members and Stakeholders**

### **Notice of Changes to Credential Names and Designations**

A full review of "CARDUP" credentials was undertaken in 2013. For the reasons outlined below, the Sonography Canada Board of Directors has approved a number of changes to credential names and designations in order to ensure the integrity of the core CRGS<sup>®</sup>, CRCS<sup>®</sup> and CRVS<sup>®</sup> credentials and to ensure consistency in the application of designations appended to certain credentials.

#### **Canadian Registered Generalist Sonographer (CRGS<sup>®</sup>)**

The CRGS credential signifies that a Canadian sonographer has at least entry level competence in abdomen, obstetrics and gynecology, musculoskeletal, superficial structures and certain vascular (carotid and certain lower extremity venous and abdominal) areas as well as an entry level understanding of ultrasound physics. National Competency Profiles (NCPs) were updated in 2013 that define the sonographic competencies required of this credential. CMA accredited educational programs use these NCPs to define their curriculums to train students in all of these areas.

Prior to the implementation of the CARDUP Generalist exam in 2010, CARDUP issued "Limited" credentials in circumstances where registrants had ARDMS credentials in some but not all competency areas covered by the Generalist credential. In most instances these were for Abdomen and/or Obstetrics and Gynecology. The credentials issued at that time were, for example, CRGS – AB, CRGS – OB, CRGS – OG, or some similar form. While the issuance of limited credentials ceased with the implementation of the Generalist exams, many registrants still retain these credentials.

Since the CRGS credential encompasses more than the scope of any limited credential, Sonography Canada believes that it is more appropriate to designate these limited credentials without reference to the term "Generalist". In order to maintain the integrity of the CRGS credential while continuing to recognize the professional qualifications of those with limited credentials, Sonography Canada is introducing a new credential, the **Canadian Registered Sonographer (CRS)**. *With the issuance of membership cards effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, any member of Sonography Canada who currently has a limited Generalist credential will see their*

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CRGS credential replaced with the CRS credential. A mapping of current to new credentials is attached.

All members with the full CRGS credentials will see no change.

#### Canadian Registered Cardiac Sonographer (CRCS®)

Prior to introducing CRCS examinations in 2011, CARDUP often recognized ARDMS credentials in adult echo and pediatric echo by appending a suffix such as (A) or PE after the CRCS designation. The exact form of these appended letters have varied. For example, A, (A), AE, (AE) have all been used to recognize adult echo. With the new membership cards effective May 1, 2014, all CRCS credentials that recognize either adult echo or pediatric echo will use only the letters AE and PE respectively.

All members with the CRCS credential (no suffix) will see no change.

#### Canadian Registered Vascular Sonographer (CRVS®)

The CRVS credential remains unchanged.

While the majority of Sonography members will be unaffected by the above changes, we trust that those of you who are impacted will understand that these changes are in no way intended to diminish your qualifications but instead are intended to better clarify qualifications for both members and stakeholders alike.

Please carefully review your renewal documents when you receive them to ensure your credentials are correct. Please contact us at [memberinfo@sonographycanada.ca](mailto:memberinfo@sonographycanada.ca) should you have any issues or concerns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Lawson".

Wendy Lawson  
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Hickey-Scharf".

Janice Hickey-Scharf  
Co-Chair



### Sonography Canada Credential Mapping – Effective May 1, 2014

Prior to May 1, 2014	Effective May 1, 2014
CRGS	CRGS (unchanged)
CRCS	CRCS (unchanged)
CRVS	CRVS (unchanged)
CRGS (A)	CRS-AB
CRGS (AB)	CRS-AB
CRGS (OB)	CRS-OG
CRGS (OG)	CRS-OG
CRCS (NE)	CRS-NE
CRGS (AB,OB)	CRS-AB/OG
CRGS (AB,OG)	CRS-AB/OG
CRGS (limited)	CRS-"x" (where "x" = AB or OG)
CRCS (A)	CRCS-AE
CRCS (AE)	CRCS-AE
CRCS (P)	CRCS-PE
CRCS (PE)	CRCS-PE
CRCS (A)(P)	CRCS-AE/PE
CRCS (AP)	CRCS-AE/PE

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