

Sonography Canada Professional Practice Guidelines

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Title	Ultrasound Examination Scheduling and Time Allotments
Pages	1 of 2
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Summary Statement:

Sonography Canada supports the Management Information Systems (MIS) Standards, endorsed by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) guidelines for ultrasound examination scheduling and time allotments.

Position Statement:

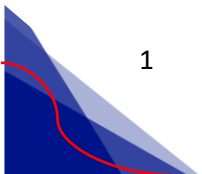
The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is an independent, not for profit organization that provides essential information on Canada’s health systems and the health of Canadians by promoting data quality and standards. Policy-makers across Canada utilize CIHI’s data system, Management Information System (MIS) Standards, to set health standards for improved operations within health facilities.

The Management Information System (MIS) Standards is a set of national standards for gathering and processing data and for reporting financial and statistical data to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Canada’s health care facilities. Managers and ministries of health report detailed financial and statistical data, generated with the MIS Standards, to the CIHI’s Canadian MIS database. In turn, the database extrapolates important information such as resource use accountability, budgets based on meaningful workload and activity projections, precise resource allocation and informed management decisions for comparability of operations nationally.

[*1 MIS Standards 2025 - Ultrasound - Schedule of Unit Values \(PDF\)](#)

*1-The above documents and explanation below are excerpts from the MIS Standards 2025 with the copyright permission from CIHI.

Sonography Canada supports these documents as they are the National Standard Guidelines across Canada.



The Workload Measurement System includes all Ultrasound activities using Average Time methodology which is the national average of time it takes to perform one workload unit*2 (exam count) and the unit values*3 (measure of worth/time) to complete the examination. Each exam/activity is assigned a code. The exam/activity times include all components from start to finish of the procedure. These include everything from initial setup, patient instructions, performing examination, image acquisition, to clean up and documentation. The workload units are standardized to compare productivity.

The following is an example to better understand this concept:

Abdomen U/S complete

Code US205 = Complete Abdomen Ultrasound = 35 unit values = 1 workload unit(exam count)

Abdomen U/S complete with quantitative doppler

Code US205(Abdomen) + US110 (doppler) = 65 unit values (35-Abdomen + 30-doppler)= 1 workload unit (1-Abdomen + 0-doppler)

This means, according to the MIS Standards, the technologist is given the average time of 65 minutes to perform all steps needed to complete this exam once for the average technologist under average circumstances. The 1(one) workload unit (exam count) is a standardized method of accountability to compare productivity and provide a mechanism for future planning and decision making across all health facilities.

This workload measurement system assesses the average output per exam for similar functions and work performed in various facilities across Canada and take into consideration workflow, technical protocols and resource utilization. Any activity in the schedule of unit values can be utilized by any medical imaging facility and is reflective of the realistic average time required to perform a specified duty. Therefore, Sonography Canada recognizes and supports the MIS Standards as the National Standard guidelines.

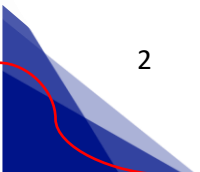
*2 - Unit Value - system to measure worth/time or efficiency of one component of a whole activity.

*3 - Workload Unit - unit of work used to calculate productivity.

References:

Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI)

<https://www.cihi.ca/en/about-cihi>



<https://www.cihi.ca/en/submit-data-and-view-standards/data-standards/management-information-system-standards>

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