

Scanning for teaching purposes at ASA events | guideline

These guidelines are for ALL ASA educational meetings, workshops and conferences where scanning of volunteer models is performed in order to teach/demonstrate a specific sonographic examination. This may be conducted either as a demonstration or where participants are able to scan under direct supervision. Separate guidelines exist for scanning in exhibition areas.

Live scanning must be performed utilising safe and prudent use of ultrasound.

The following requirements must be undertaken:

ASA Code of Conduct and Guidelines

Any person performing live scanning at ASA education events as outlined above undertakes to abide by the ASA Code of Conduct and published guidelines.

Informed consent

All volunteer models being scanned for teaching purposes must be provided with a full explanation of the procedure by the sonographer or medical practitioner who is performing the examination prior to the start of the session. For volunteer models between the age of twelve and eighteen years, written consent must also be sought from the minor in conjunction with the parent or guardian.

The volunteer model must be advised that the examination is for teaching purposes only and that a full diagnostic examination will not be undertaken. It is recommended that the model consents to their medical practitioner being informed of any unexpected findings and that they provide appropriate contact details. Refusal or inability to provide these contact details must be indicated on the consent form.

The volunteer model must complete and sign the relevant "ASA Consent for Sonographic Examination for Teaching Purposes" form. Specific forms are available for general examinations, intimate examinations, and for volunteer models under the age of 18 where a guardian must provide the consent. All completed consent forms will be collated and forwarded to the ASA Office for archiving.

Volunteer model privacy and care

Care must be taken to ensure privacy in the following ways during the event:

- A private change area should be provided.
- Appropriate clothing, such as a gown and sheeting should be used to expose only the area of interest.
- The volunteer model should be asked how they wish to be addressed.
- Communication with the volunteer model and audience with regard to the pathology present and/or the care and treatment options must be appropriate to ensure volunteer model is not unnecessarily distressed.
- The person performing the scan must take responsibility for the volunteer model's well-being and safety for the duration of the teaching session.
- Where members of the audience are given the opportunity to scan the volunteer model, they must be supervised at all times by the presenting sonographer/medical practitioner.
- Transvaginal sonographic examinations should be undertaken behind a partition or via an interactive video link. Other personal examinations may also be undertaken in this manner.
- Volunteer models should be scanned by the sonographer/medical practitioner prior to the session to ensure familiarity with the patient pathology and to identify any pathology that may require urgent attention.
- Volunteer models should be questioned about any allergies, such as a latex allergy, prior to the scan.

Volunteer model selection

Where possible, volunteer models should be selected who are aware of their diagnosis.