



Harmonized

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### Authorizing Prescriber

LHO, LHB and LHAP – Anesthesiologists, Emergency Department and Critical Care Physicians

LHPP – Anesthesiologists and Emergency Department.

### Authorized to Whom

Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT) and Anesthesia Assistants (AA) in good standing with the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario with no limitations to their RRT license employed within Lakeridge Health.

### Patient Description/Population

Patients under the care of the Critical Care Unit, Emergency Department or Surgical Suite within Lakeridge Health who require Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) guidance to assist with performing prescribed procedures.

### Order and/or Procedure

Use POCUS for real-time imaging and direct visualization of anatomical landmarks while performing or assisting in performing specified prescribed procedures. This directive includes a delegation of the controlled act: applying a form of energy (sound waves for POCUS).

### Contraindications

- Lack of patient consent
- Contraindications listed in prescribed procedure policy and procedure

### Indications for ultrasound use in prescribed procedures

Order received from a physician to perform the following prescribed procedures:

- Arterial line insertion in patients with challenging habitus; anasarca, hypotension, vascular anomalies and obesity.
- Assist anesthesia with nerve blocks in the Operating Suite.
- Confirmation of endotracheal tube placement in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- Assessment of diaphragm thickness in the Critical Care Unit.

### Consent

Consent for the use of POCUS will be obtained.

### Documentation Requirements

Documentation of the medical directive will be included in the AA/RRT's documentation in the order section of the patient chart.

### Review/

### Evaluation Process

The medical directive will be reviewed every 2 years by the Surgical Services Department, Emergency Department Council and Critical Care Council.

The AA/RRT will maintain ultrasound use competence by performing one of each prescribed procedure under physician supervision annually.

### References

Rtso.ca. (2018). *Ultrasound for RRTs & RRT/AAs | Respiratory Therapy Society of Ontario*. [online] <https://www.rtso.ca/ultrasound-for-rrts-rrt-aas/> [Accessed 1 Dec. 2018].

Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O 1991, c. 18. O. Reg. 107/96.  
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/91r18>