Ultrasound Practice & Education
The Australian Perspective

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Ultrasound machines are or have been supplied by the following companies in the courses I am involved with:

- GE
- Sonosite
- Zonare
- Philips
- Toshiba
History

- Australia has a long history of development and use of ultrasound
- Mostly, this has been within the “traditional” areas:
  - Radiology
  - Cardiology
  - Obstetrics & Gynaecology
  - Vascular Surgery
Newer Developments

- (Like the rest of the world)
- Ultrasound use in Australia has now spread (*exploded*) to “non traditional” users
- = Clinicians
Current Users

- Emergency Medicine (wide range)
- Anaesthesics (echo & procedures)
- Intensive Care (echo & procedures)
- Rheumatology (synovium)
- Respiratory Medicine (procedures)
- Renal Medicine (procedures)
- Sports Medicine (MSK)
- ... and growing rapidly
Future Users

- Allied Health Users
  - Physiotherapy
  - Podiatry
  - Nurse Practitioners
  - Etc.
Training

- Currently evolving (and changing)
- Mixed between
  - Undergraduate - very limited
  - Specialty Colleges - varies
  - Private providers – short courses
  - University - diplomas
- In hospital training, colleagues, self education
Undergraduate

- Uni Notre Dame Sydney
  - 7 workshops, 1 hr hands on
- Uni Notre Dame Perth, Griffith Uni
  - Tutorials during ED rotation
- Others
  - Exposure during radiology and other rotations
Specialty Training
Traditional Users

- Mandatory Requirements
  - Practical
  - Reporting

- Radiology
- Cardiology
- Vascular Surgery
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Some colleges are incorporating into their training requirements

- Variable levels of requirements
  - “Understanding”
  - Ability to interpret images
  - Practical requirements
- Limited by inability to provide training widely
University

- Well structured to provide knowledge components
- Limited in ability to provide practical training / experience
Private Providers

- Short Courses
- Some accredited by external bodies
- Strong practical focus

- Generally seen as only first step in training
Accreditation

- Hospital / Health Organisation based
- Does not cover private practice in rooms
- Not currently regulated by Government
- Not specifically addressed by insurers
Accreditation

- Some Specialty Colleges have recommendations for credentialling requirements
  - Emergency Medicine
Accreditation

- Government is currently investigating and reviewing payment for ultrasound by non-imaging specialties
- Likely to become de-facto standard except in public hospitals
Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine

Founded 1970
Multidisciplinary Society
- Medical (all specialties)
- Sonographers
- Scientific
Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine

- Requested to create a qualification for clinicians using ultrasound

- Certificate of Clinician Performed Ultrasound (CCPU)
  - Modular design
  - Each module requires
    - Course / Knowledge
    - Experience (Logbook)
    - Assessment
The Future … (possibly)

- Increased teaching at undergraduate level
- Increased use within specialty training programmes
- Some uses will become standard
  - Nerve blocks in anaesthetics
  - Echo in Life Support
The Future … (possibly)

- Outside of these, demand for standards (?and payment) will require other qualification
- Provided by?
  - ASUM / CCPU
  - Specialty Colleges
  - Universities (unlikely)
  - Government (unlikely to provide but likely to set bar for payments)
Questions?