

Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Services

Supplemental Protocol

ULTRASOUND EXAMINATION

PROTOCOL STATEMENT

Ultrasound examination (also known as *emergency ultrasound* or *point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS)*) is the application of ultrasound at the point of care to make immediate patient-care decisions. It is performed by the provider caring for the injured or ill persons, on-scene or in an ambulance. It is used to quickly diagnose a limited set of injuries or pathologic conditions. In the emergency setting, it is used to guide resuscitation, monitor critically ill persons, provide procedural guidance, or confirm clinical diagnosis.

APPLICABILITY

This protocol applies to all Virginia Beach Department of EMS (VBDEMS) Duty Physician personnel (facilitated or released) with academic or occupational POCUS training who perform emergency ultrasound examinations in their clinical practice or who have been authorized by the VBDEMS Operational Medical Director (OMD) to perform ultrasound examination.

INDICATIONS

Ultrasound may be used in situations including but not limited to known or suspected:

- Trauma
- Internal bleeding
- Breathing difficulty
- Compensated or uncompensated shock
- Heart failure
- Abdominal pain
- Obstetrical emergencies
- Cardiac arrest

Ultrasound may be used to provide procedural guidance or confirmation in situations including but not limited to:

- IV access
- Use of an advanced airway

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Examiner is not trained to interpret ultrasound findings
- Examination would inappropriately delay packaging and transport of a major trauma patient

PROCEDURE

Ultrasound examination procedures must comply with the examiner’s academic or occupational ultrasound training, and with the ultrasound device manufacturer’s recommendations, and must satisfy any specific guidance issued by the OMD.

APPROVED:

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Revised

