



## MASSACHUSETTS

### Diagnostic Head and Neck Ultrasounds for Evaluation of Thyroid and Parathyroid Disorders

This document outlines consensus criteria permitting endocrine medical and surgical specialists to officially interpret and perform diagnostic head and neck ultrasounds and ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration (UGFNA) in the evaluation of thyroid and parathyroid disorders.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts medical directorship and the American College of Endocrinology (ACE) have established the criteria below. *Please note that endocrine specialists must fully satisfy all conditions.*

In addition to meeting professional criteria conditions, all freestanding facilities must also achieve **American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM)** or **American College of Radiology (ACR)** ultrasound accreditation in thyroid and parathyroid disorders or in general ultrasound.

- Must be board-certified endocrinologist or endocrine surgeon, or head and neck surgeon.
- Must have recognized certification in neck ultrasound (ECNU) by the **American Institute of Medicine (AIUM)** through the **American College of Endocrinology (ACE)**.
- Facilities must have AIUM or ACR ultrasound accreditation in thyroid and parathyroid disorders.
- The physician who is the primary reader must *officially interpret at least 100 studies over one year*.
- The physician must be able to provide evidence of an ongoing *quality assurance program* including:
  - Proof of submission of studies for review deemed satisfactory by ACE's ECNU certification program when available;
  - 15 hours of ongoing CME every three years in areas of general and neck ultrasound and thyroid and parathyroid disorders;
  - Confirmation of ultrasound diagnoses by surgical histology;
  - Ongoing tracking of outcomes and procedural complications.

Geographic access and other exceptional circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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