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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) Credential Required for the Vascular Surgery Qualifying Examination Starting in 2014**

The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS®) commends the Vascular Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery (VSB-ABS) for their recent decision to require the ARDMS Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation® (RPVI®) credential as part of the application process for the Vascular Surgery Qualifying Examination.

“The decision to require the RPVI credential highlights the importance of expertise in vascular sonography interpretation as an essential component of vascular surgery,” said R. Eugene Zierler, MD, vascular surgeon and member of the ARDMS Board of Directors.

The ARDMS RPVI credential, the highest attainable standard in vascular sonography interpretation, is earned by passing the Physicians’ Vascular Interpretation (PVI) examination. The eight major content areas of the PVI examination reflect current noninvasive vascular laboratory practice and assess the knowledge and clinical skills that are fundamental in making consistent and reliable diagnoses in vascular disease.

Beginning in 2014, physicians applying for the Vascular Surgery Qualifying Examination will be required to hold the RPVI credential. The examination is offered annually by the Vascular Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery and is the first step toward achieving board certification in vascular surgery. The American Board of Surgery is an independent, non-profit organization founded for the purpose of certifying surgeons who have met a defined standard of education, training and knowledge. It is one of the 24 member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties.

“I am very pleased with the Vascular Surgery Board’s recent action in further establishing the rigorous application requirements for their Board examination,” said Patricia Prince, Chair of the ARDMS Board of Directors. “As an ARDMS Registered Vascular Technologist currently working in a high quality vascular laboratory, I believe that excellence in patient care requires appropriate competency assessments for all health care professionals.”

“The VSB-ABS recognizes the importance of noninvasive vascular testing as a cornerstone of practice and patient care; the complete vascular specialist must be fully competent in interpreting a wide variety of such studies,” said Joseph Mills, MD, Chair of the VSB-ABS and Chief of vascular and endovascular surgery at the University of Arizona. “We unanimously voted to require RPVI credentialing as a prerequisite for vascular surgery certification. Our trainees, and the patients they serve, will be assured that our certified vascular surgeons possess a high-level of knowledge and competence in noninvasive testing and have been independently assessed and credentialed by the ARDMS, a highly-respected multidisciplinary organization involved in developing high standards of care in the noninvasive arena.”

For information about the Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) credential offered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS), please visit [www.ARDMS.org/RPVI](http://www.ARDMS.org/RPVI).

For information about the Vascular Surgery Qualifying Examination offered by the Vascular Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery, please visit [www.absurgery.org](http://www.absurgery.org).

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*The American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography® (ARDMS®) incorporated in June 1975, is an independent, nonprofit organization that administers examinations and awards credentials in the areas of diagnostic medical sonography, diagnostic cardiac sonography, vascular technology and physician vascular interpretation. ARDMS credentialing programs are accredited by ANSI-ISO 17024 and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). ARDMS has more than 68,000 certified individuals in the U.S., Canada, and throughout the world and is the recognized international standard in sonography credentialing.*