



<http://www.phlebology.org/patientinfo/index.html>

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American College of Phlebology Board of Directors

As an ultrasound section member (and former Chair), I receive emails from ACP members with questions about the RPhS credential. I fully endorse the credential, and I hope all sonographers/sonologists who perform Phlebology ultrasound will consider sitting for the examination. I received an email from a member and asked his permission to share our correspondence. The email has a final outcome that is worth bragging about. Read on:

Email Received:

Hello Ms. Neuhardt,

I have been following your involvement with the development of the registered phlebology specialist ultrasound credential with interest. I am board-certified by the American Board of Phlebology, I have my RPVI, and I am a vascular surgeon.

My questions are:

1. Would I still need to take yet another exam to prove my competence in venous treatment since I have already been certified with the RPVI by the ARDMS and the American Board of Phlebology?
2. Does this new exam give any more credentialing then I already have?
3. Are all of us physicians who have RVT/RPVI, or both and board certification in phlebology going to be asked to take another exam, and if so, what will this add to what we already have?
4. Since the ARDMS has not sanctioned this exam, and since the ARDMS is the gold standard in sonographic credentialing, what is the validity of this exam?

John Landi, RPVI, MD

Reply:

Dear Dr. Landi:

Thank you so much for writing. I appreciate your feedback, and I am very pleased I have an opportunity to respond to your question.

First of all, you are an accomplished physician! You have all the qualifications that point to a professional in phlebology. You have ultrasound credentials and interpretation credentials. In addition, you are board certified in phlebology. Congratulations! I commend you.

Your question is – do you need the Credential in Phlebology US? If you are asking my opinion – no you don't. But, looking at what you have willingly done to be as credible as possible, I actually see you as someone who will take the exam – but for different reasons.

The Phlebology US credential was intended for physicians and/or medical professionals working in the field of phlebology to gain credentials in US. The RVT exam is a baseline entry level exam in vascular technology, and much of the exam does not pertain to phlebology nor does it cover some essential knowledge in therapeutic ultrasound. So, if you are a physician or a professional who is working in this focused environment, the Registered Phlebology Sonographer would be a great option to obtain US credentials. It is not intended to replace the RVT credential – because they are different.

I respect ARDMS and have been a RVT for a very long time. Saying that though, I have come to respect CCI as a highly recognized credentialing body due to the focus and content of examinations they administer. Until recently, I admit my “opinion” of ARDMS was similar to yours. Now that I have become immersed in the whole testing process, and how it all works – I have a broader attitude of both organizations. Essentially ARDMS and CCI are competing – so ARDMS would never “endorse” this exam, nor do we need them to.

In closing, the Phlebology US Credential will be available if you want to take it. I think your reason for sitting for the exam would be to compare your current knowledge base with what is offered by examination. You would probably like the challenge and consider passing the exam as a sense of accomplishment. That’s just my opinion.

Thank you for writing – and I hope you will write me again. I would love to have you involved in the ACP Ultrasound Section as a volunteer.

Have a great week-end.
Diana

Response:

Hi Ms. Neuhardt,

This is just a follow-up note to the last correspondence.

I did take your advice and sit for the RPhS exam as part of the beta group. Fortunately I did pass and have obtained the RPhS credential. Thanks for responding to me in my initial e-mail.

John Landi, RPVI, RPhS, MD