



## State of Wisconsin

### Veterinary Examining Board

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#### **Guidance Document VEB-GD-011 Referrals to Radiological Technicians and Sonographers**

Wis. Stat. §§ 89.02 (6) and 89.03 (1)  
Wis. Admin. Code §§ VE 1.44 and 1.48  
8/19/25

#### **Topic**

This guidance document clarifies activities related to referrals to radiological technicians and sonographers.

#### **Relevant Statutes and Administrative Code**

Wisconsin Stat. § 89.02 (6) defines the practice of veterinary medicine as to examine into the fact or cause of animal health, disease or physical condition, or to treat, operate, prescribe or advise for the same, or to undertake, offer, advertise, announce, or hold out in any manner to do any of said acts, for compensation, direct or indirect, or in the expectation thereof.

Wisconsin Stat. § 89.03 (1) authorizes the board to promulgate rules to establish the scope of the practice permitted for veterinarians and veterinary technicians, within the limits of the definition under Wis. Stat. § 89.02 (6).

Wisconsin Admin. Code § VE 1.44 (5) (a) allows veterinarians to delegate to certified veterinary technicians the provision of performing diagnostic radiographic awake contrast studies not requiring general anesthesia, under the supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is available to communicate via telehealth technologies within 5 minutes or the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided.

Wisconsin Admin. Code § VE 1.44 (6) (b) allows veterinarians to delegate to certified veterinary technicians the provision of performing diagnostic radiographic contrast studies, including those requiring general anesthesia, under the supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided.

Wisconsin Admin. Code § VE 1.44 (8) (a) allows veterinarians to delegate to unlicensed assistants the provision of nonsurgical veterinary treatment of animal diseases and conditions, including administration of vaccines, and administration of sedatives and presurgical medications, under the supervision of the veterinarian when the veterinarian is personally present on the premises where the services are provided, except as provided under s. 95.21, Stats.

Wisconsin Admin. Code § VE 1.48 allows veterinarians to make a referral to a client, for treatment of a patient by a license holder in another profession, using complimentary, alternative, or integrative therapies, if the license holder, to whom the client and patient are referred, provides all of the following evidence to the veterinarian for performing the type of therapy for which the referral is being made: the license holder's current

licensing in good standing, with the applicable board through the department of safety and professional services, and the license holder's education, training, and experience in performing the therapy on an animal. The VCPR does not extend to the provision of any complementary, alternative, or integrative therapy performed on a veterinarian's patient, under either of the following circumstances: the therapy is performed by a license holder in another profession, where the veterinarian demonstrates meeting the requirements for making the referral to the license holder, or the veterinarian's client obtains any complementary, alternative, or integrative therapy services for a veterinarian's patient without a referral by the veterinarian.

### **Board Position**

Some veterinary clinics use licensed radiological technologists to perform radiographs, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and positron emission tomography (PET) scans. These individuals may or may not be certified veterinary technicians.

If these individuals are not certified veterinary technicians (CVTs), but they are licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), a veterinarian may refer patients to them using the process set forth under s. VE 1.48, Wis. Admin. Code, regarding referral to other professionals.

If the individuals are certified veterinary technicians and they have the appropriate training, the veterinarian may delegate the performance of radiographic diagnostic studies, which includes awake contrast studies that do not require anesthesia, to a CVT in compliance with s. VE 1.44 (5) (a), Wis. Admin. Code, and performance of diagnostic radiographic contrast studies, including those requiring general anesthesia in compliance with s. VE 1.44 (6) (b), Wis. Admin. Code.

Sonographic technicians are not licensed under DSPS and therefore are treated as unlicensed assistants for purposes of delegation of medical services. Veterinarians can delegate the performance of sonograms to qualified sonographers, under the delegating veterinarian's supervision, consistent with s. VE 1.44 (8) (a), Wis. Admin. Code.

The Board considers performance of an ultrasound or sonogram to be part of non-surgical treatment of animal diseases and conditions; this would include allowing the sonographer to administer the contrast for a sonographic contrast study. The Board views the administration of contrast as equivalent to the administration of sedatives and presurgical medications.

Because sonograph technicians are considered unlicensed assistants, they cannot perform ultrasound guided fine needle aspirates, cystocentesis procedures, or other procedures where rule limits the delegation of the medical service to certified veterinary technicians. For example, fine needle aspirate of a mass and cystocentesis procedures under s. VE 1.44 (5) (b) and (f), Wis. Admin. Code, these procedures may be performed by CVTs under the supervision of a veterinarian, therefore they cannot be performed by a sonograph technician. However, they may be performed by radiological technologists licensed by DSPS in accordance with the referral procedures in s. VE 1.48, Wis. Admin. Code.