

**Quality Assurance Process**

The QA process will be done through Qpath (see Qpath instruction sheet) and will be required as a continuing process for fellows and attending physicians performing ultrasound in the intensive care units. Qpath allows individuals to submit cases for review. ICU fellows will be required to submit 2 QA's per application per month (limited cardiac, thoracic, vascular/procedural, abdomen). These submissions occur during ICU rotations and during the ICU lecture series which occur every two weeks. This should result in approximately 80 reviewed scans per year (~25% of all scans done). In addition, faculty who are identified as "Reviewers" are able to review scans on an intermittent basis. The following is the scale we will be using:

**5** : Excellent images, adequate for evaluation and decision making - No intervention required

**4** : Good images, *adequate for evaluation and decision making* - PDF sent to fellow/attending physician on what could have been done better

**3** : Poor to Good images, *not adequate for evaluation and decision making* - PDF sent to fellow/attending physician on what could have been done better

**2** : Inadequate images; *not adequate for any interpretation to perform, unable to identify system studied*; PDF sent to fellow/attending physician on what could have been done better

**1** : Poor to good images; *patient care decision with possible risk* (chest tube placed for no pleural effusion causing pneumothorax, chest tube placed in abdomen, poor heart function evaluated as hyperdynamic and inappropriately given IV fluids); intervention required is meeting with all attending physicians and fellow involved with action plan