

22 February 2023

Dear Julia,

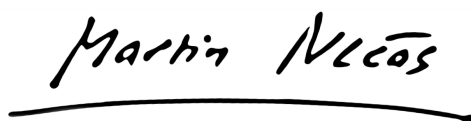
RE: Clinical visit, Waikato Hospital, 21-22 February 2023

It was a pleasure to meet you during your clinical visit to Waikato Hospital's Vascular Lab. I enjoyed exchanging ideas regarding duplex imaging technology, diagnostic criteria for a variety of conditions, patient management pathways, training opportunities, as well as practical ways of improving patient throughput and efficiency.

To save costs, save time and improve efficiency, I would encourage you to explore ways of working more independently. There is no valid reason that radiologists need to review the majority of your diagnostic work. We have recently performed two large studies (each including 1000 unique patients) to evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of sonographers. The first study (published in the Journal of Sonography) looked at examinations that the sonographer determined were "normal". The second study (accepted and soon to be published) looked at a complex cohort of hospital patients with nearly 1500 abnormalities independently reported by sonographers. The conclusions from the studies are clear: *"Sonographers and radiologists demonstrate a high degree of agreement in reporting normal and abnormal US findings. Sonographers and radiologists committed a comparable number of errors, and the error severity scores were also comparable. The customary, routine involvement of a radiologist in the second reading and reporting of all US examinations is unnecessary."*

You are welcome to log your clinical visit as 10 CPD points in the "substantive" learning category and include a copy of this letter with your records for audit purposes. If there is anything we can help you with now or in the future, please do not hesitate to ask.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Necas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Martin Necas

Associate Clinical Director of Ultrasound, Specialist Sonographer
Department of Ultrasound, Radiology, Level 1 Waiora Building, Waikato Hospital, Pembroke Street,
Hamilton, New Zealand | m: +64 (0) 274522067 | e: martin@antegrade.net